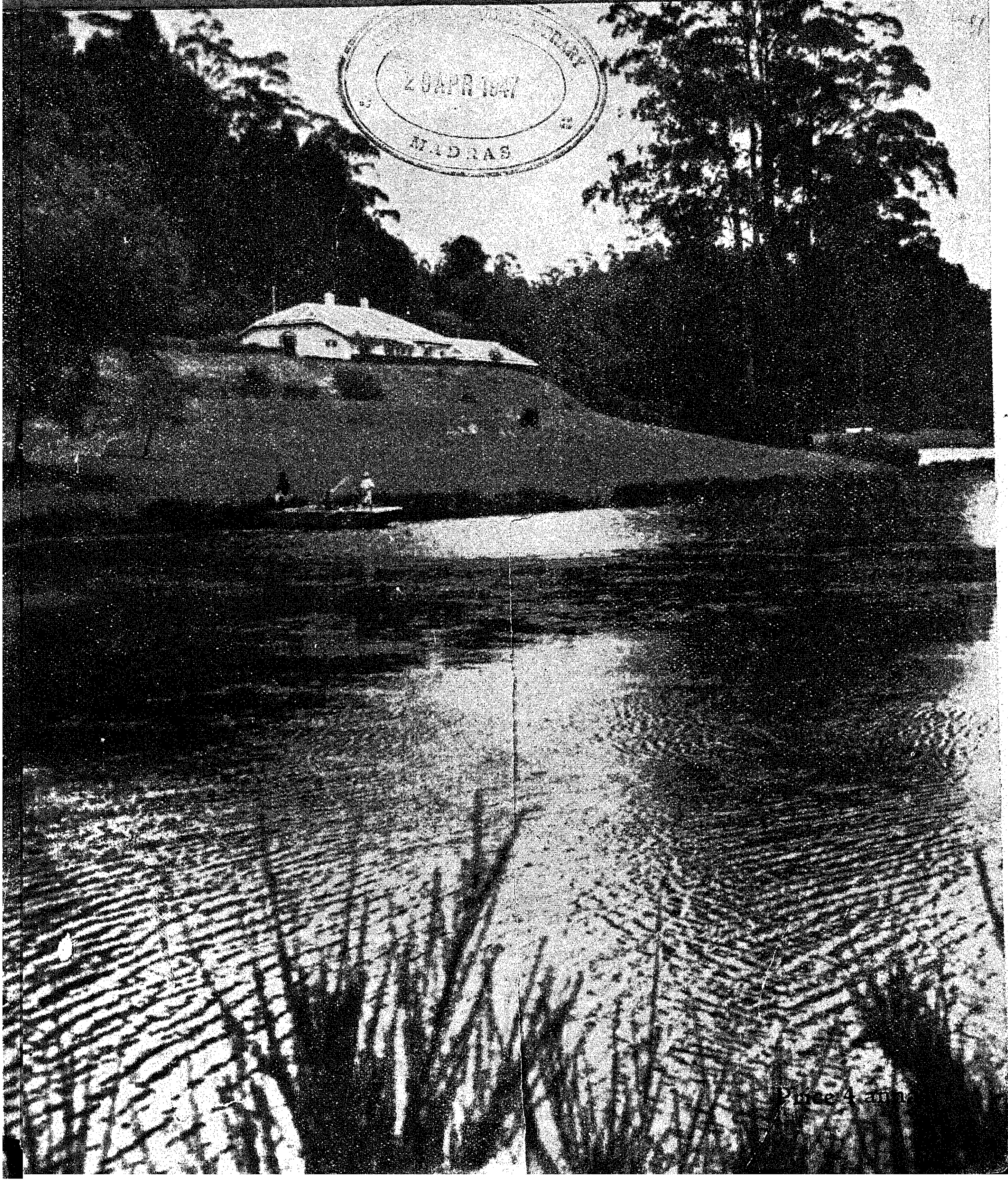
MADRAS INFORMATION



20 APR 1947
MADRAS

Price 4 ann

MAIN FEATURES

(1) Notes and Comments

(2) Madras Government Press Notes

(3) Premier's Appeal to Workers

(4) Government Departments at Work

(5) Food Planning

(6) Zamindari Legislation

(7) A Peep at the Poondi Works

ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

Outside Cover Page	Rs. 150
Inside „	„ 125
Other Pages	„ 100
Half Page	„ 60

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Annual	Rs. 6
Half-Yearly	„ 3

Less than half year's subscription will not be accepted.

Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

Anything except pictures appearing in this journal may be freely reproduced.

Madras Information

Published every fortnight by the Director of Information and Publicity
Fort St. George

Vol. I, No. 11 WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE April 19, 1947

Editorial Notes

Land Reform

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Venkata Rao, Revenue Minister, in a statement to the Press, has invited the opinions of prominent public men and other concerned sections of the public about his proposal to introduce legislation for the abolition of Zamindari, for fixing the land-tax in the ryotwari areas and for determining the relationship between tenant and owner. The need for tackling these problems earnestly and immediately cannot be gainsaid, and the Revenue Minister points out that the constitutional difficulty anticipated sometime back in the way of securing His Majesty's assent for introducing legislation affecting the Zamindars' proprietory rights, is not likely to be insuperable in view of His Majesty's Government's recent declaration drawing a definite dateline for the transfer of power to Indians. In the meantime, consultations are proceeding with the various concerned interests and everyone else interested in the problem of land reform has been asked to communicate his views to the Government.

Settlement of Labour Disputes

The policy of the Government with regard to the settlement of industrial disputes, now that a comprehensive measure of legislation has been passed by the Central Legislature, has been explained in a Government Press Note. The Industrial Disputes Act brings into existence two agencies which are intended to play a notable part in the prevention of trade disputes and prescribes a definite, clear-cut procedure in regard to the settlement of disputes once they arise. They are—

(i) the establishment of Works Committees consisting of representatives of employers and workmen constituted in such a way that the number of representatives of workmen shall not be less than the number of representatives of employers, and (ii) Industrial Tribunals, consisting of one or more members possessing qualifications ordinarily required for appointment as Judges of a High Court.

There is a provision in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, investing the Provincial Governments with power to see that Works Committees are set up in every establishment employing more than 100 workers, the advantage being that these committees will begin to function or can be called into action immediately there is an indication of an industrial dispute and may play an important part in preventing employer-employee differences from culminating in a strike. The Industrial Tribunal, as the Press Note explains, "will be called in when either party to an industrial dispute applies for reference of a dispute to the Tribunal and also where the Government consider it expedient so to do." The award given by the Tribunal will be binding on the parties for a period not exceeding one year.

Conciliation Machinery

Another important change effected by the Act is the re-orientation of the Conciliation machinery. While empowering the Provincial Governments to set up Courts of Enquiry for enquiring into any matter appearing to be connected with or relevant to any trade dispute, it draws a distinction between public utility concerns and other industrial establishments and makes conciliation compulsory in respect of the former and optional in the case of the latter. This is a distinct point of advance, involving a realization of the need to reduce public inconvenience inherent in a strike in a public utility concern, by requiring compulsory reference of the issues to conciliation. The time-limits prescribed for Conciliation Officers, Boards of Conciliation and Courts of Enquiry to report on the issues referred to them are a further safeguard for expeditious settlement in accordance with the importance and urgency of the matter in dispute. A settlement arrived at as a result of the conciliation proceedings will be binding for such period as may be agreed upon by the parties. The Act provides for the prohibition of strikes and lock-outs during the pendency of adjudication and conciliation proceedings and for awards of Industrial Tribunals being declared binding on the parties. If a strike or lock-out is in progress on the date of reference of a dispute to conciliation or adjudication, the Provincial Government can prohibit its continuance. By the incorporation of this provision, an important *lacuna* in the existing trade disputes legislation has been filled up. Under the powers given to the Provincial Governments to declare Transport, Coal, Cotton, Textiles, Foodstuffs, Iron and Steel as public utility concerns within the meaning of the Act, in regard to which conciliation is compulsory in case of a dispute, the Government of Madras have declared Motor Transport Services and Cotton Textiles as 'Public Utility Services.'

The problem of settlement of industrial disputes is an extremely knotty and complex problem calling for tact, patience and skill and a perfect understanding of human nature and the psychological factors involved in the relationships between two large agglomerations of human beings actuated by apparently conflicting motives and objectives. The reconciliation and harmonization of the interests of these two groups of human beings—workers and employers—involves a continuous study of human nature plus practical understanding of the requirements of each given case. It is necessary, however, to realize that in an industrial age, when so much depends on the successful management of industries and the maintenance in perfect and undisturbed order of the work of production so essential for human happiness in different spheres, a dispute in any large industry culminating in a strike or lock-out is not the concern solely of the workers or the industrialists but that the interests of the general community are intertwined with it. It is, therefore, essential that as perfect and effective a machinery as is possible should be brought into existence to ward off industrial disputes or to settle them satisfactorily and speedly when they arise. To that end the new Industrial Disputes Act and the machinery constituted under it should largely contribute.

Two Measures of Social Reform

Two important measures of social reform intended to purge the Hindu society in the Madras Presidency of two long-standing evils were placed on the Statute Book as a result of the adoption by the Madras Legislature of the Temple Entry Authorization Bill and the Bill to amend the Civil Disabilities Removal Act. The first of these was introduced and sponsored by the Hon'ble Dr. T. S. S. Rajan and the second by the Hon'ble Mr. V. Kurmayya. The Temple Entry Authorization Bill is in particular a measure of far-reaching importance and significance and is intended to facilitate the entry of the members of the Harijan community into temples as a matter of inalienable civic right and to penalise attempts by any one to prevent the exercise of the right of such entry. The Temple Entry Authorization and Indemnity Act of 1939, is already there on the Statute Book and provides for the throwing open of temples, with Government's approval, by the trustees or other authorities, to the excluded classes of the Hindu community, whenever they are satisfied that the general Hindu public is not opposed to that step. Under this provision, in recent months a number of temples in South India, some of them very famous, have been thrown open to the Harijan community amidst general enthusiasm and rejoicing. But the provision has been found inadequate to meet the requirements of the rapidly changing times and it was not open to the Government to take the initiative in that respect as the move had to emanate from the trustees. On the other hand under the present enactment entry of Harijans

and other excluded classes into temples will be permissible irrespective of the consent of the temple authorities on the approval of the Government. It will be an inherent right exercisable by the hitherto excluded classes with the full weight of legal sanction behind them.

That the measure redeems an age-old wrong continuously inflicted on an important section of the Hindu community and ensures them justice long denied, there can be no doubt. It is for public opinion, especially orthodox public opinion, now to realize its responsibility in this matter which it had not been able to realize in the requisite measure so long. It can, by an enthusiastic self-sponsored move, remove the irrational disabilities in the matter of worshipping at shrines dedicated to the Gods, imposed so far on an unhappy section of their co-religionists, and thus reduce the penal provisions of the legislation to a dead letter. The temple entry movement has already progressed far. What is wanted now is a mobilization of public opinion to enable it to get a further fillip. At the same time once it is realized by the Harijans that they are able to exercise the privilege of worshipping in the *sanctum sanctorum* of a temple as any other Hindu it will automatically provide a stimulus to them to practise clean and healthy habits. Much may be made of the consideration that a far-reaching reform like the one under reference cannot be a complete success unless there is an active, dynamic public opinion in its support ; but it is an equally important consideration that the pace of social reform can be quickened by the legal sanction behind it. The Madras Government have thus taken an important step, by introducing this legislation, to vitalize and strengthen the Hindu community by establishing on a legal basis the principle of social equality of all members of that community. It is a happy augury that the legislation was supported by all sections in the Legislature—Caste Hindus, Muslims, Indian Christians and, of course, Harijans.

Removal of Civil Disabilities

The second measure which was adopted by the Madras Legislature is in the form of an amendment to the Civil Disabilities Removal Act, 1938, which makes the original legislation more comprehensive and effective by imposing penalties on those who attempt to prevent the entry of members of the Harijan community into public places like hotels, theatres, eating houses, etc. To prevent one section of humanity from making use of a public restaurant or a public theatre simply because they belong to a particular community is a social injustice which cannot be tolerated by the awakened social conscience of the present day. The Bill removes, as the Minister in charge pointed out, the vagueness prevailing in respect of the rights of certain classes of people and penalizes any attempt at harassment of the members of the Harijan community in the exercise of those rights. Any attempt at such harassment or to prevent Harijans from entering into public places will be punishable with a fine of Rs. 50 in the case of the first offence and in the case of subsequent offences with imprisonment to the extent of six months or fine to the extent of Rs. 1,000 or both. All the offences under the Act having been made cognizable it should ensure the successful operation of the measure. It is worth mentioning that in connexion with this Bill also there was unanimous support from all sections of the Legislature for its passage.

Paddy Prices Increased

In spite of the fact that they have more than once affirmed their intention not to increase the prices of foodgrains, the Madras Government have now revised their intention so far as prices of paddy are concerned, and have decided, in view of the representations made on behalf of the producers, to increase the village site prices of paddy at a uniform rate of 4 annas per maund or 8 annas per bag. It is important to note in this connexion firstly, that the increase is in response to an insistent demand from producers in the five surplus Circar districts that the prices fixed already were uneconomic, and secondly, that it is in respect of all sorts of paddy. In addition to the increase in price the producers will get the benefit of the cart hire paid by them if the produce is to be delivered at any other place than the village site. This will be specially advantageous to producers in Nellore district where the produce is procured by the millers and not by the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies such as those established in the other Circars districts and Malabar.

Some important considerations involved in this matter, to which a brief reference was made in the Press Note issued in this connexion, require a little further explanation. In the first place, it cannot be too often stated that Madras is a deficit area so far as rice, which is the staple foodgrain of its population, is concerned and that

to stave off the anticipated shortage in our stocks of that commodity, we are under an inexorable obligation to the Government of India. In the fixation of prices of foodgrains like paddy and wheat, the Government of Madras or any other Provincial Government are not free agents who can decide on the price to be paid solely with an eye to local needs and requirements. They are under a compelling necessity to conform to the prices fixed by the Government, after examining the position from an all-India standpoint, and must fix local prices at a level and in such a way as would not over-ride the all-India price schedules decided upon by the Centre. Local producers may grouse that their interests do not enter directly or adequately into the determination of foodgrain prices; but they must take into account the limitations under which the Provincial Government have to function in this matter and the various imperative considerations that enter into the determination of prices. Further they cannot possibly ignore the interests of the overwhelming body of non-producing consumers to whom any increase in rice prices, without a corresponding increase in incomes, would mean a great hardship. The Government of India and the Provincial Government have to safeguard the interests of the consumers in the same way as they have to safeguard the interests of the producers.

Another point to which the Government Press Note refers require to be drawn attention to. "In the northern surplus districts" it says, "where producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies have been organized, the Government are informed that the producers prefer to get a higher price immediately rather than wait for the disbursement of dividends and distribution of profits in the usual course." The decision to increase the village site prices is in response to this desire of the producer shareholders of societies, so that they may be enabled to secure an advantage, however small it may be, within the framework of the price structure set up by the Central Government and without accentuating the burden on the consumer.

The responsiveness of the Government to the demand made by the producers should now be reflected in the responsiveness of the producers to the imperative demands of the food requirements in the Province. That is to say, there must be an immediate and substantial stimulus to procurement operations by way of release of surplus stocks by all the producers. The food position in some of the districts in the Province is obviously unsatisfactory and can be improved only by timely procurement of the grain in the surplus districts and the replenishment of stocks in the deficit districts. Nor is there any virtue or advantage in their not selling their stocks without delay, when the Government have unequivocally and repeatedly made known that there is no prospect of any increase in prices or of payment of bonus in future

Village Officers Reinstated

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Madras Restoration of Village Officers (Validation) Act, 1939 (Madras Act XVIII of 1939), His Excellency the Governor of Madras hereby directs that the following persons shall be appointed to the Village office specified against each, in the place of the existing incumbent of that office, who shall be removed therefrom :—

Name. (1)	Village office. (2)
1. R. Gopalakrishnayya	Karnam, Ravirela village, Nandigama taluk, Kistna district.
2. K. Ramakrishnayya	Karnam, Katuru village, Gannavaram taluk, Kistna district.
3. M. V. Mallikarjuna Rao	Headman, Bokinala village, Gannavaram taluk, Kistna district.
4. N. V. Raghavalu	Headman, Kanumolu village, Gannavaram taluk, Kistna district.
5. K. Vasudeva Nainar	Deputy Headman, Melpudupettai village, Cuddalore taluk, South Arcot district.
6. K. Govindaswamy Vendayar (if the Collector considers him fit).	Headman, Vinayakanteru village, Kumbakonam taluk, Tanjore district.
7. G. Venkatasubbiah	Karnam, Kirtipadu village, Ongole taluk, Guntur district.
8. M. Komu Menon (if the Collector considers him fit).	Adhikari, Erimayur amsam, Palghat taluk, Malabar district.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

Informal Rationing of Pulses

Owing to poor allotments and poorer imports of pulses and gram, acute scarcity of pulses particularly of blackgram and redgram is keenly felt in the city for some time and prices are high.

In order to distribute equitably the available quantities of pulses the Government have decided to introduce informal rationing of redgram, blackgram and greengram in the Madras City on the same lines as in respect of bengalgram. The scales of ration of pulses and gram are given in the statement below. A maximum of one-fourth of the total ration of pulses and gram may be taken in the shape of redgram or in the shape of blackgram, i.e., a family can buy up to a fourth of the total ration as redgram and up to another fourth of the total ration as blackgram. No distinction will be made in regard to gram and dholl in the cases of redgram, blackgram and greengram. In the case of bengalgram if dholl is taken, the card holders will be given three-fourths of the maximum gram ration and if flour is taken a quantity equal in volume to the maximum gram rations will be allowed. The ration of pulses will be distributed through the sugar ration shops and on sugar ration cards.

Statement.

Income per month.	Number of adults.	Scale of supply of all pulses together (blackgram, redgram, greengram and bengalgram in Madras measures) per month.
(1)	(2)	(3)
Rs. 30 and less ..	1—3 adults ..	2
	4—6 adults ..	3
	Above 6 adults ..	4
Exceeding Rs. 30 but not exceeding Rs. 100.	1—3 adults ..	3
	4—6 adults ..	4
	Above 6 adults ..	5
Exceeding Rs. 100.	1—3 adults ..	4
	4—6 adults ..	5
	Above 6 adults ..	6

Two children above three are treated as equal to one adult.

It is realized that the rations are inadequate but in view of the present supply position it is not possible to give more. All that this scheme aims at is to give every family a basic share of what is available.

[18th April]

Sale of Firewood

At present the Government are incurring heavy expenditure on the subsidized sale of firewood in the City of Madras. As the retail price of firewood in the city is lower than the price in most of the mufassal stations, the Government have decided that it is not justifiable to subsidize the sale of firewood on the present scale and that the retail price should be increased and the subsidy reduced to the extent possible. It was not however considered desirable to raise the retail price of firewood uniformly in the case of both the lower and the higher income groups. The Government have accordingly decided that the price should be increased by Re. 0–2–0, i.e., to Re. 0–13–0 per gundu in respect of inferior wood and by Re. 0–2–6 per gundu, i.e., to Re. 0–14–0 and Re. 0–15–0 respectively in respect of jungle wood and casuarina, for the first three income groups. For the other four income groups the increase in price will be Re. 0–4–0 per gundu for inferior wood and Re. 0–4–6 per gundu for jungle wood and casuarina. The revised retail prices will be Re. 0–15–0, Re. 1 and Re. 1–1–0 per gundu of inferior wood, jungle wood and casuarina respectively. The issue price to establishments has been increased from Rs. 35 to Rs. 45 per ton.

As there will be administrative difficulties in enforcing two sets of retail prices in the same shop, the Government have directed that card-holders in income groups 4 to 7 should be attached to separate shops by re-allocation of card-holders amongst the existing shops or by opening new retail shops if necessary. Under this arrangement it is possible that card-holders in income groups 4 to 7 may have to go to shops at a greater distance from their houses than at present. To minimize this inconvenience the Government have directed that card-holders in these income groups may draw their rations for a fortnight at a time and not for a week.

[26th March]

Prices for foodgrains

The Government have already issued two press notes, dated 3rd December 1946 and 7th February 1947, regarding the procurement prices for paddy, rice, and millets to be paid to the producers during the current crop year. They have explained in the

press notes that the Government of Madras cannot follow an idependent policy with regard to the price fixation, that they must abide by the advice of the Government of India, that the Government of India are against any increase in existing prices as that would inevitably result in an increase in prices of other commodities also, and that in the circumstances the Madras Government had no intention of increasing the prices either now or during the course of the year, or granting any bonuses for the delivery of grains as was done during 1946. In spite of these press notes the Government are informed that producers are still under the impression that there will be some increase in prices during the course of the year or that the Government will grant bonuses and that if they only hold on to the stocks they can secure better prices. The Government want to disabuse producers of any such impression. The Government hereby wish to reiterate that they do not intend to increase the procurement prices already fixed and that they have absolutely no intention of offering bonuses during the course of the year for delivery of foodgrains. The Government wish to impress once again upon all producers that the food situation in the Province still continues to be critical and in view of the fact that the help which the Government of India could offer this year will be extremely limited as compared with last year, it is imperatively necessary that procurement should be cent per cent effective this year if rationing is not to break down and if everywhere the quantity of rice ration is to be increased to and maintained at 12 oz. per adult per day throughout the year. The Government therefore request producers to co-operate with them and surrender all available surplus with them voluntarily and immediately at the prices now fixed by the Government.

If this appeal does not produce an adequate response, the Government will be compelled to resort to coercive measures and reduce the prices for stocks not delivered voluntarily within the dates fixed in the notices issued by the procurement staff.

[27th March]

Higher Prices for Paddy

The Government have, on more than one occasion, declared that there will be no increase in the price of rice during 1946–47 and that they have no intention of granting any bonus either. They however learn that the producers still entertain a hope that the Government may revise their decision and are consequently slow in parting with their stocks. The Government of India have decided that there should be no increase in the prices during the year and the Madras Government are bound by that decision particularly because Madras is a deficit province dependent on outside help. The Madras Government hereby declare firmly and finally that the prices of rice to the consumers cannot and will not be increased.

They have however considered whether within the framework of the f.o.r. prices for rice it is possible for the cultivators to get more for their produce. In the northern surplus districts where Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies have been organized, the Government are informed that the producers prefer to get a higher price immediately rather than wait for the disbursement of the dividends and distribution of profits in the usual course. After a careful examination, the Government are satisfied that the societies can pay a few annas per bag of 2 maunds of paddy more than the present village site prices. The Government therefore direct with immediate effect the following village site prices shall be paid to the producers for unbagged paddy delivered in the villages :—

	Present village site price per bag of 2 maunds of paddy.			Revised price per bag of 2 maunds of paddy.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Superior	12	0	0	12	8	0
First sort	10	14	0	11	6	0
Second sort ..	10	0	0	10	8	0
Third sort	9	4	0	9	12.	0

These prices will apply to all transactions in the five surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur and Nellore. In Nellore district societies have not been formed and purchases are usually made at the mill; the price for delivery at the mill will be Rs. 13–8–0 a bag of 2 maunds of paddy (special sort). In regard to the southern surplus districts and the other deficit districts the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and the Collectors are being instructed to revise the village site and mill delivery prices on the above lines. The producers shall be given cart hire or such transport charges as prevail in the area if the paddy or rice is to be delivered at places other than the village site.

It has been represented that some producers would prefer to deliver rice instead of paddy so that they may get the bran for their cattle and save some portion of the incidentals allowed to the millers. The Government have decided to permit the ryots to do so subject to the limit that

a producer who elects to exercise this option delivers not less than 1 ton of rice or roughly 13 bags of 2 maunds each. A producer who so delivers the rice at the railway stations will be paid the following rates for a bag of 2 maunds of rice; in the five northern districts referred to above.

	RS.	A.	P.
Superior	19	4	0
First sort	17	12	0
Second sort	16	8	0
Third sort	15	6	6

The Government wish to impress upon the producers that the stocks are very low in the most heavily deficit districts and need urgent replenishment before the monsoon sets in. Last year, when there was a general failure of crops, the province was able to survive largely through the co-operation of the producers. The Government are confident that the producers will not allow the consumers to suffer this year considering the fact that the season is better. Madras will forfeit the good name it has earned and the sympathy of the world if procurement is not better this year than last year. The Government therefore appeal to the producers to realize the situation and give their full co-operation in future as they have given in the past.

[10th April]

Special Permit for Mill Cloth

The Government have decided that all special permits for the purchase of mill-made cloth in excess of the prescribed rations for any purpose whatever should be issued with their approval and have constituted a Committee for the purpose of examining and making recommendations to them on applications for such permits. The following procedure will be followed in regard to the receipt and disposal of these applications :—

(1) The applications should be made to the Collector of the district in which the applicant resides or the institution for which the cloth is required is located ; no application should be sent direct to the office of the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

(2) The application should contain the name and full address of the applicant, and full particulars of the quantity and description of cloth required, the purpose for which required and the mill-cloth ration the applicant is entitled to (family ration in the case of individuals).

(3) The Collectors will forward the applications recommended by them, so as to reach the Provincial Textile Commissioner on every Monday. The Provincial Textile Commissioner will, after scrutiny of the applications by the Committee, obtain the orders of the Government and communicate them to the Collectors.

(4) The Collectors will issue special permits in accordance with orders of the Government and send them to the applicants direct. In view of the meagre quota of mill-cloth available special permits will not be granted except for very special reasons.

Cost of living index

The cost of living index number for working classes in Madras City for March 1947 was 267.

The index number for the food group rose by four points to 209 due mainly to a rise in the prices of ragi, milk and gingelly oil.

The index for the clothing group advanced by 13 points to 276 due to the inclusion of prices for handloom cloth also in the index.

The index for house-rent increased by 54 points to 154 due to the adoption of the prevailing rent.

The adoption of current expenditure on education, dhobi and soap (washing) and medicine and medical charges had the effect of raising the index for the miscellaneous group by 24 points to 245.

The index for the fuel and lighting group remained unchanged at 205.

Food Control Prosecutions

The Director of Information and Publicity has issued the following Press Release :—

There were about 106 prosecutions launched in the various magisterial courts of the province during the fortnight ending March 15, 1947 in respect of offences under the Foodgrains Control Order and Rationing Regulations.

About 69 cases have resulted in convictions and sentences, which have generally been deterrent. The other cases are *sub-judice* and the results are awaited.

Handloom Cloth Control

Important provisions of the Madras Handloom Cloth (Export) Control Order, passed recently, are as follows :—

It extends to the whole of the Province of Madras.

It shall come into force at once.

No cloth shall be exported except by or through the agency of an exporter.

The Commissioner may, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, specify—

(*a*) the varieties of cloth that may be exported,

(*b*) the maximum export price at which an exporter shall sell to an importer in Ceylon, and every exporter shall comply with the directions contained in such notification.

The maximum prices specified above shall not be exceeded on any account whatsoever, whether on account of transport charges or on any other ground :

Provided that, if the seller of any cloth is liable to pay sales tax under the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939, he may charge in addition the actual amount of such tax payable in respect of the cloth sold.

The markings to be made on cloth intended for export, the time and manner of making them, the person by whom they shall be made, and the stamping fee payable shall be as prescribed.

Every exporter shall apply to the Commissioner in the form prescribed by him, for the grant of a certificate that the varieties of cloth sought to be exported and the export prices charged are in accordance with the Commissioner's notification under clause 6.

On receipt of the application from the exporter, the Commissioner may, if he considers that the provisions of the above clauses have been satisfied, issue a certificate in the form set forth in the schedule to this order.

No exporter shall be allowed to export any cloth, unless he has obtained a certificate from the Commissioner.

Any Inspecting Officer may, with a view to securing compliance with this order—

(*a*) require any person to give any information in his possession with respect to any business carried on by that or any other person ;

(*b*) inspect any books or other documents belonging to or under the control or any person ;

(*c*) enter upon and search any house, building or other premises, and seize any cloth in respect of which he has reason to believe that a contravention of this order has been, is being, or is about to be committed.

The Commissioner may, by special order, exempt any cloth specified therein, from all or any of the provisions of this order.

Development

Madras Trade Disputes Bill

Before the war, trade disputes were sought to be settled by conciliation or arbitration under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929. The awards of conciliators or arbitrators were not, however, binding on the parties to the disputes ; and as it was essential during the war that all trade disputes should be settled expeditiously, a rule, viz., rule 81-A, was inserted in the Defence of India Rules, so as to provide for the reference of trade disputes to adjudicators whose awards would be binding on the parties. Experience of the working of adjudication under rule 81-A was very satisfactory, and in August last, in view of the impending expiry of the Defence of India Rules on the 1st October, 1946, this Government considered it necessary to introduce interim legislation for the settlement of trade disputes, pending further investigation and final legislation in regard to the matter. The Madras Trade Disputes Adjudication (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1946, was accordingly introduced in the Legislative Assembly and passed by it on the 9th September 1946 and by the Legislative Council on the 12th September 1946.

As the Bill regulated subjects in the concurrent Legislative List in a manner which was repugnant to the provisions of the existing law on those subjects, His Excellency the Governor reserved the Bill for the consideration of the Governor-General, with reference to section 107 (2) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Shortly afterwards, on the 25th September 1946, the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance 1946 (Ordinance XX of 1046) was passed by the Governor-General, continuing Rule 81-A and certain other of the Defence of India Rules.

His Excellency the Governor-General has intimated his decision, arrived at after the fullest

consideration, to withhold his assent to the Bill for the reasons set out below.

In the first place, His Excellency considers that in view of the division of functions made not only in the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, but also in Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules as continued in force by the Ordinance, the Bill is open to objection as encroaching on the Central field. His Excellency has also pointed out that since Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules has been continued in force by the Ordinance, the immediate reasons which led to the promotion of the Bill have ceased to apply.

It may be added that in view of the continuance of Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules, the Government of Madras did not press for assent being accorded to the Bill.

[19th March]

Police Firing in Guntur

The following official account of the shooting in Chilakaluripet, Guntur district, has been released to the Press :—

In a telegram, dated 24th March, the Collector of Guntur has reported that a clash between striker and non-striker coolies took place in front of the National Indian Tobacco Company, Chilakaluripet, at 11 o'clock that morning. The Police opened fire as a result of which two were seriously injured and two got minor injuries. The situation is now under control and a fuller report is awaited.

Clash among Mill Workers

The following report about the clash between members of the Congress and Communist labour unions of the Radhakrishna Mills at Coimbatore, which took place on 8th April 1947, has been received from the District Superintendent of Police :—

On the evening of 8th, following a dispute over the employment of a communist woman employee, members of the Congress and Communist Labour Unions in the Radhakrishna Mills came to a clash. Twenty-four Congress workers including fifteen women and sixteen communist workers, all men, and one independent worker were injured. Of these, four communists, one congress and one independent worker sustained serious injuries. Some damage was also caused to the mill premises but not to the machinery. Necessary bundobust arrangements are made and no further trouble has been reported.

2

Madura Mills Dispute

The Madura Mills Company has three mills, one at Madura, the second at Tuticorin and the third at Vikramasingapuram in Tinnevelly district. There were labour unions both at Madura and Vikramasingapuram which has been recognised by the management. Some of the labourers of the mills at both the places formed new unions and carried on activities on behalf of the rival unions. As these activities were against a standing order framed by the management, these labourers were dismissed. The new unions contended that these dismissals were unjust and against the principles of trade unionism. A dispute thus arose between the workers and management and as they were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the Government referred the matter to the District and Sessions Judge, Ramnad, for adjudication.

After enquiry the adjudicator reported that the standing order goes against the fundamental right of freedom of association which every worker has and that it permits the workers to join a rival union and at the same time prohibits them from working actively on behalf of it. He therefore found that the standing order should not be allowed to remain on grounds of principle or on the advantage of practice. Consequently the adjudicator recommended that the standing order should be modified, permitting the existence of only one union at a time, which should represent the majority of the workers. The Government ordered the enforcement of the recommendations of the adjudicator.

A ballot was taken under the personal supervision of the Commissioner of Labour to decide which of the labour unions have the confidence of the majority of the workers. The workers have by a majority chosen the Madura Textile Workers' Union at Madura and the Vikramasingapuram Textile Workers' union at Vikramasingapuram. The District Magistrate of Madura has reported that the management of the mills has recognised the successful labour unions.

[3rd April]

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

The main defect of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, which has been repealed from 1st April 1947 was that it contained no provision for the settlement of knotty trade disputes by the binding decision of a statutory body. This defect was keenly felt during the War, when there was much industrial unrest throughout the country. Rule 81-A of the

Defence of India Rules had therefore to be framed. This rule was of great assistance in maintaining peace in industry. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, which replaced the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, from 1st April 1947, embodies the essential principles of Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules while retaining in tact the salutory provisions of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929.

2. Two new types of machinery can be set up under this Act for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes. These are works committees consisting of representatives of employers and workmen constituted in such a way that the number of representatives of workmen shall not be less than the number of representatives of the employer, and Industrial Tribunals consisting of one or more members possessing qualifications ordinarily required for appointmnet as judges of a High Court. The Provincial Government are given the option to require works committees to be constituted in every industrial establishment employing 100 or more workmen. The Industrial Tribunal will be called in when either party to any industrial dispute applies for reference of a dispute to the Tribunal and also where the Provincial Government consider it expedient so to do. The award shall be binding on the parties for a period not exceeding one year. But if the Provincial Government consider that there has been a material change in the circumstances on which the award was based, it may refer the award to a Tribunal for a decision whether or not the award should by reason of such a change, cease to be in operation before the expiry of the period so fixed and the period of operation of the award should be determined by the decision of the Tribunal on such reference.

3. The Act re-orients the administration of the conciliation machinery provided in the Trade Disputes Act. Provision is made for the appointment of conciliation officers and Boards of Conciliation. Courts of Enquiry may also be constituted with one or more independent persons by the Provincial Government for enquiring into any matter appearing to be connected with or relevant to any industrial dispute. Conciliation will be compulsory in all disputes relating to public utility services and optional in the case of other industrial establishments. With a view to expedite conciliation proceedings, time-limits have been prescribed for conclusion thereof. The Conciliation Officer is required to submit his report within 14 days of the commencement of the conciliation proceedings or within such shorter period as the Provincial Government should fix. A Board of Conciliation is required to submit its report within 2 months from the date of notice of strike. A Court of Enquiry will be required to enquire into any matters referred to it and report thereon within a period of six months from the commencement of its enquiry. A settlement arrived at in the course of conciliation proceedings will be binding for such period as may be agreed upon by the parties and where no period has been agreed upon for a period of six months and will continue to be binding until revoked by a two months' notice by either party to the dispute.

4. Another important feature of the Act is the prohibition of strikes and lock-outs during the pendency of conciliation and adjudication proceedings and of settlements reached in the course of conciliation proceedings and of awards of Industrial Tribunals declared binding on the parties to the dispute by the Government. Where, on the date of reference to conciliation or adjudication, a strike or lock-out is already in existence, power is given to the Provincial Government to prohibit its continuance.

5. The Act also empowers the Provincial Government to declare, if public interest or emergency so require, any of the following industries to be public utility services, by a notification in the official gazette, in addition to those already declared as public utility services in the Act itself.

(1) Transport (other than railways) for the carriage of passengers or goods, by land, water or air.

(2) Coal.
(3) Cotton textiles.
(4) Foodstuffs.
(5) Iron and steel.

It is proposed to declare Motor Transport Services and Cotton Textiles as 'Public Utility Services'.

[3rd April]

Harijan Uplift Scheme

It is well known that a sum of rupees one crore has been allotted in the Budget for uplift of Harijans. The scheme for the utilization of the amount which has been drawn up and approved by the Hon'ble the Prime Minister is issued to the press :—

In paragraph 9 of my budget speech for 1946–47 I stated as follows :—

"A further sum of rupees one crore has been included for measures aiming at the uplift of Harijans, and the removal of their disabilities."

In paragraph 17 of my last Budget Speech, I indicated the lines on which the schemes for

Harijan uplift should be implemented, which are as follows :—

" Coming now to Harijan uplift, the scheme which the Government have under active consideration is to start colonies in selected places in each district where Harijans, caste Hindus, Muslims and others will be encouraged to live side by side and maintain the same standards of living. Schools, hospitals, and other amenities will be provided for the benefit of the colonists. The Government intend that these colonies should serve as models for the reconstruction of villages on the basis of self-sufficiency and provision of common facilities for all communities without any distinction and with no disabilities for Harijans. The details of the Scheme have not yet been completely worked out and finally settled. I hope that good progress will be made on it in the course of the budget year."

Our schemes for Harijan uplift should therefore be drawn up in conformity with our undertakings to the Legislature. On these bases, the following detailed allocations would afford a satisfactory arrangement for the expenditure of the One Crore Fund.

Our first aim should be to provide illustrative centres of model villages, where the members of all communities would live together without any distinction of caste or creed. In a Province like ours, where there are so many castes, religions and sects, it is essential to drive home to the people the oneness of the Indians by first getting them to live together amicably, understand one another's points of view and to assist them to live in a spirit of live and let live. Model villages aiming at the grouping of all communities together will not only achieve this end, but will also enable people hitherto accustomed to very low standards of living to lift themselves up from their low standards of living and acquire habits and modes of living of the higher classes. Our Firka Development Schemes offer excellent foundations for the development of new colonies of this type. I, therefore, propose that wherever land is available for assignment in these Firkas, colonies should be set up with at least one colony in each firka and about one hundred houses in each colony in which the members of different communities can be housed close to one another. This would mean that in the 34 firkas selected for development, 3,400 houses will have to be put up. Taking 15 houses per acre, i.e., about 5 cents for each house and the rest for communal purposes, like roads, we would require about 230 acres. Assuming that half of the requisite land will be available for free assignment, that is from communal lands, for the remaining half the expenditure will be about Rs. 1,15,000, at the rate of about Rs. 1,000 per acre. In these Firkas, there are 858 other villages and 17 towns. In these 858 villages, about ten houses in each village may be put up in or adjoining the village sites occupied by non-Harijans on model lines for Harijans alone. This will require another 285 acres and at Rs. 1,500 an acre, a provision of Rs. 4,27,500 has to be made, assuming again, that half of the total land required will be available for free assignment. These two schemes will provide 11,980 houses. At an expenditure of Rs. 500 on each house, the total cost will, therefore, be about Rs. 70,00,000 including compensation for lands and about Rs. 4,50,000 for amenities such as roads and wells. In these Firkas there are 17 towns, and provision should be made to encourage the local bodies to put up houses for Harijans for which this Government may contribute Rs. 500 each and claim an equal amount from the Government of India. At the rate of about 50 houses in each town, the expenditure from the Fund on this Scheme would be Rs. 4,25,000.

This would leave about Rs. 25,00,000 for expenditure on other schemes. It is essential in attempting Harijan uplift to ensure that the inferiority complex which an average Harijan acquires through years of serfdom is liquidated. As the young men of to-day will have to be the leaders of to-morrow, these young men have to be educated to acquire an outlook of which no one need be ashamed. For this purpose, I suggest that Harijans should invariably be induced to live in hostels attached to educational institutions along with members of other communities and that if the boarding grants given to them are insufficient to meet the cost of living in such hostels, the difference should be contributed from the Fund. The expenditure on this item may amount to about Rs. 3 lakhs a year. In order to enable Harijan boys and girls to acquire the same standards and compete with others on an equal footing, I also suggest that a coaching institution should be started in Madras in the first instance and if successful, be extended to two more places, one in the South and the other in the North, at an early date. For the present, the expenditure on the Madras institute to train 100 boys for a six-months' course for a year will be about Rs. 1,00,000.

Harijan youths are now not adequately provided with opportunities for technical and industrial education. Institutions meant for meeting this demand should therefore be encouraged by Government both by boarding grants and of

building and other grants without regard to the limits laid down in the rules applicable for grants under the Education and Industries and Commerce Departments. An amount of Rs. 5,00,000 may be set apart from the Fund for this purpose.

The balance of about eight lakhs may be held in reserve.

In all the housing and colonization schemes, not more than 25 per cent non-Harijans should be admitted. They should be provided with house-sites and allowed building grants if they are too poor to pay for them. In other cases, loans may be advanced where necessary for the acquisition of sites and the construction of houses subject to the maximum admissible to Harijans and recovered in reasonable instalments. All the housing and colonization schemes may be organized on co-operative lines, preference being given to persons willing to contribute their labour or building the houses with the housing grant of Rs. 500 according to type-designs supplied to them. The Harijans should not be allowed to alienate the sites or buildings except to the Co-operative Society.

Johannapalem in Dendulur firka of West Godavari district has made a significant contribution to the solution of the problem of untouchability. The villagers of all communities are willing to live together. They have already acquired a village-site for the purpose. The Development Commissioner should submit proposals within a week for a model colony on the lines laid down by me in this note. He should submit proposals also for the land colonization and housing schemes in the selected firkas within three months. The work in the selected firkas should be completed within a period of three years at the latest, while the work in the Khadi firkas should be completed during the next financial year.

In regard to the extension of house building outside the selected firkas, Government should provide lands free of cost to Harijans wherever such land is at Government's disposal. Where that is not possible and house-sites in private ownership are available, Collectors and local authorities should attempt wherever possible to arrange to give the owners of suitable sites lands of equal value available with Government so that the house-sites available may be exploited fully for the occupation by Harijans. This would also keep the expenditure on provision of house-sites low. Where these alternatives are not possible, the present rules for acquisition of land under the Labour Department should apply. The Commissioner of Labour should take steps to get a survey of Harijan housing made within three months and submit a five-year plan for the consideration of Government.

Under the existing rules, grants for drinking water-supply are not made, for villages with less than 500 people. This undoubtedly causes hardship to small villages of Harijans. In such cases, arrangements should be made to supply to Harijans the materials required for well construction such as cement and steel and boring equipment where necessary, provided labour is supplied by them free of cost. The expenditure on the materials will be met from the Funds available for rural water-supply. The Labour Commissioner must take the initiative in arranging water-supply in these areas and get funds transferred to his budget from the provision for rural water-supply, if the provision in his budget is insufficient. If a survey of rural water-supply has not already been made by the Labour Commissioner, he should take steps immediately to get this done and provide all Harijan villages with drinking water in a period of five years. He should submit a five-year plan within three months.

[22nd March]

Prohibition

Working of the Prohibition Act

The following report on the working of the Prohibition Act in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Salem, Coimbatore, Chittoor and North Arcot during February 1947 is published for information :—

Preliminary remarks.—Prohibition has been in force from 1st October 1946 in all the above districts. Its enforcement continued to be in charge of the Police Department in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor and the Excise Department in the other four districts.

Enforcement work—Cases.—The total number of cases detected during the month was 1,541 as against 1,763 during the previous month. There has thus been a fall in the number of cases detected in February 1947. The total number of illicit distillation cases decreased from 675 to 466. The

decrease was marked in Cuddapah, North Arcot, Chittoor and Kurnool. The fall in the number of illicit distillation cases in Cuddapah and North Arcot was apparently due to the rounding up of several gangs of illicit distillers in the previous months. Only six cases of illicit distillation were detected in Coimbatore district against 5 cases detected in January 1947.

The number of illicit tapping cases continued to be low.

The number of cases relating to intoxicating drugs decreased from 223 to 215. There were no large seizures of Mysore ganja during the month. This was presumably due to the stern measures taken by the Mysore Government to prevent smuggling in response to the requests of this Government.

Denatured spirit.—There was no appreciable increase in the sale of denatured spirit. The sale in North Arcot continued to be very high. The number of cases of attempts to render denatured spirit fit for human consumption increased from 2 to 10, all the cases having occurred in North Arcot district.

Border problems.—Border patrols continued to be active during the month. There were however no indications of large scale smuggling into prohibition areas.

Assistance given by officials of other departments and non-officials.—As in the previous months, the Police in the Ceded districts offered their co-operation in a very large measure in the detection of crime. As many as 157 cases were detected by the Police in these districts and 28 cases were detected with their assistance.

Seventeen cases were detected by village officers and 20 cases were detected with their assistance. The assistance given by the village officers in North Arcot district was very satisfactory where they detected 4 cases and rendered assistance in the detection of 11 more. In Bellary district the village officers did not contribute to the detection of cases. The work done by village officers in Cuddapah and Coimbatore was poor, as only one case in each of these districts was detected by them.

In all 7 cases were detected by or with the assistance of other officers.

Two hundred and twenty-eight cases were detected by or with the assistance of outsiders other than regular informants, nearly half of them being in the Salem district.

Only 6 cases were detected by or at the instance of members of taluk and Village Prohibition Committees. No case was detected by members of Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees in the districts of Kurnool, Cuddapah, Coimbatore, Salem and Chittoor.

General.—On the whole, the preventive work during the month was satisfactory. The Excise staff in the Ceded Districts generally evinced zeal and enthusiasm in the enforcement of Prohibition. The enforcement staff in Salem and North Arcot districts also did very good work.

Ameliorative work—Employment of ex-tappers.—The following statement shows the progress made in the formation of co-operative jaggery manufacturing societies in the four districts where their registration has been permitted :—

Name of district.	Number of co-operative societies.	Number of licences issued.
Coimbatore ..	90	4,100
Salem	55	8,000
North Arcot ..	25	600
Chittoor ..	1	64

In the Pollachi and Gobichettipalaiyam divisions of the Coimbatore district these societies produced 26,000 maunds of palmyrah jaggery worth Rs. 1,56,000.

In the North Arcot district a basket makers' co-operative society and two co-operative stores for the distribution of food stuffs were organized. In Coimbatore the organization of a milk-supply society was undertaken in one of the scavenger's colonies and a chuckler's co-operative society was organized in Cuddapah district.

Promotion of thrift.—The thrift campaign which was launched in collaboration with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies is progressing slowly. The total amount saved in hundi boxes in February 1947 was Rs. 19,450 as against Rs. 23,774 saved up to the end of January 1947.

Recreation and counter-attractions—Refreshment stalls.—In all the Prohibition districts, except Cuddapah and Chittoor tea and coffee shops opened by private agencies increased in numbers and popularity. Many ex-addicts are frequenting these shops.

Bhajanas were conducted regularly in many villages in the prohibition districts. Katha prasangams and kalashepams were conducted only in some villages. From North Arcot report has been received of an increase in the popularity of bhajanas among Harijans in many villages. In Salem district 20 cinemas provided free entertainment to about 20 ex-addicts every evening. Dramatic performance by local actors increased in numbers during the month in all the prohibition districts.

The Ballad singers did useful work singing songs on thrift, prohibition, rural uplift, etc. Many of them assisted in the conduct of Bhajanas and Kalashepams. They also trained the villagers in community singing.

A large number of gramasangams were organized during the month. Rural games and other entertainments were organized by these gramasangams. They also undertook rural uplift work like provision of first aid centres, adult night schools, construction and repairs of roads, installation of electric pumps, maintenance of manure pits, etc. Special mention may be made of the fact that Kottarsangam in Coimbatore district constructed a temporary plague hospital with 12 beds where 72 patients were treated free of cost.

Eight rural uplift schools were inaugurated during the month, one in each of the prohibition districts. The students were given instructions in rural games, community singing and rural uplift work.

General.—There has been an improvement in the social and economic conditions of the ex-addict. Domestic quarrels and street brawls have decreased.

[9th April]

Prohibition News

Coimbatore.—An agricultural and cattle-show was held in Kollegal taluk in Coimbatore district. The Gobichettipalayam Firka tournament was also held on the 5th of March. Arrangements are being made to install radios in seventeen villages. A night school and a reading room have been opened in Gobichettipalayam taluk.

Bellary.—Ten more grama sangams have organized.

Kurnool.—A firka tournament was held in Giddalore.

Vellore.—The Katpadi Co-operative Township was inaugurated recently.

Salem.—The Namakkal Rural Uplift School is giving intensive training to village guides.

Revenue

Jamabandi Report for fasli 1355

The jamabandi report of the Board of Reveuue for fasli 1355 records that the main features of the fasli were as follows :—

The season on the whole was generally fair only in Coimbatore, Madura, Tinnevelly, South Kanara and the Nilgiris. It was below the normal in the other districts, especially in parts of the Deccan and North Arcot, where it was disappointing. When compared to fasli 1354 there was an increase in the total extent of ryotwari holdings, the total assessment on ryotwari holdings and the total remissions. There was a decrease in the total area cultivated in ryotwari holdings, the amount of water-rate and second-crop charge, fixed remissions, beriz deductions, miscellaneous revenue and the number of sales of land.

Ryotwari villages.—The total number of ryotwari villages in the Presidency was 21,101, the same as in the last fasli.

Revenue under the principal heads.—Of the principal heads under which revenue is collected there were decreases as compared with the previous fasli in peshkash from Rs. 47,50,293 to Rs. 47,49,958, quit-rent from Rs. 7,36,922 to Rs. 7,36,040 and water rate and second crop charges from Rs. 52·64 lakhs to Rs. 48·21 lakhs, while ryotwari assessment increased from Rs. 604·27 lakhs to Rs. 604·51 lakhs.

Extent of ryotwari holdings.—The total extent of ryotwari holdings during the fasli increased from 27,654,185 acres to 27,661,319 acres. The total area cultivated in ryotwari holdings fell from 20·69 million acres to 20·20 million acres. There was a net decrease of 386,533 acres under dry and 95,295 acres under wet.

Remissions.—The total remissions granted were Rs. 71·33 lakhs as compared with Rs. 18·02 lakhs (revised figure) in the previous fasli. There was an increase in all the districts except Ramnad, the Nilgiris, South Kanara and Malabar. Seasonal remissions increased by 53·45 lakhs. Fixed remissions decreased from Rs. 1,84,340 (revised figure) in the previous fasli to Rs. 1,73,884 and beriz deductions from Rs. 10,15,783 (revised figure) in the previous fasli to Rs. 10,12,538.

Miscellaneous Revenue.—Miscellaneous revenue amounted to Rs. 120·70 lakhs as compared with Rs. 126·50 lakhs (revised figure) in the previous fasli. The total was made up of a number of items of which the more important were—

Jodi and quit-rent on minor inams (amounting to Rs. 22·97 lakhs as against Rs. 23·39 lakhs in the previous fasli), water-rate on minor inams in ryotwari villages (Rs. 15·57 lakhs as against Rs. 18·63 lakhs), charge for water in villages in estates (Rs. 28·24 lakhs as against Rs. 33·97 lakhs), enhanced water-rate on lands irregularly irrigated (Rs. 3·14 lakhs as against Rs. 4·05 lakhs),

charges levied for occupation with or without permission of assessed and unassessed lands (Rs. 6·25 lakhs as against Rs. 7·15 lakhs), charges levied for occupation of poramboke lands (Rs. 6·56 lakhs as against Rs. 6·14 lakhs), revenue derived from taxed trees (Rs. 3·32 lakhs as against 3·56 lakhs), rent of lankas (Rs. 12·86 lakhs as against Rs. 7·65 lakhs), commission for estates under the Court of Wards (Rs. 21,680 as against Rs. 30,314), revenue from process fees (Rs. 6,231 as against Rs. 5,812), proceeds of lands sold (Rs. 2·90 lakhs as against Rs. 2·16 lakhs), and quit-rent and ground rent (Rs. 2·98 lakhs as against Rs. 2·96 lakhs).

Demand and collection of land revenue and cesses (Current).—The current demand under Land Revenue and Cesses during the fasli was Rs. 974·35 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 950·81 lakhs or 97·6 per cent was collected within the fasli and Rs. 3·64 lakhs or 0·35 per cent was written off the accounts. The collection of a sum of Rs. 647 was suspended or postponed. The percentage of collection to the collectable demand was 97·96 as against 99·19 in the previous fasli.

Demand and collection of arrears.—The total arrear demand under all the heads amounted to Rs. 11·72 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 8·53 lakhs or 72·76 per cent was collected and a sum of Rs. 1·36 lakhs or 11·63 per cent was written off the accounts.

Processes under Act II of 1864.—As compared with the previous fasli, there was a marked decrease under every item, viz., number of demand notices, number of distraint or attachment notices, number of sale notices and number of defaulters whose properties were sold for arrears of revenue. The following statement shows the number of processes issued furing the fasli under report as compared with the three preceeding faslis :—

Coercive processes.	Fasli 1352.	Fasli 1353.	Fasli 1354.	Fasli 1355.
Demand notices	8,49,750	2,98,255	4,83,621	3,12,486
Distraint or attachment notices	36,653	30,317	27,250	21,860
Sale notices	30,689	9,143	5,618	3,262
Sales (number of defaulters)	4,223	1,283	347	90

The number of defaulters whose immovable properties were attached during the fasli was 995 as against 2,166 in the previous fasli. Out of 11,255 defaulters, whose properties were attached, 99 per cent paid up the arrears before sale notices were issued as against 98 per cent in the previous fasli.

Value of lands sold.—Immovable property of the estimated value of Rs. 7,761 was sold for the recovery of arrears amounting to Rs. 5,768. The average price fetched for lands sold to private individuals was more than in the previous fasli in the case of dry lands and less in the case of wet lands.

Extent of lands sold.—The extent of dry lands sold to private individuals fell from 353·70 acres in the previous fasli to 110·61 acres and that of wet lands from 121 acres to 75·35 acres. The total area bought-in by the Government for want of bidders fell from 157·25 acres in the previous fasli to 57·00 acres under dry and from 166 acres in the previous fasli to 35 acres under wet. The total area of lands sold was 277·96 acres against the total holdings of 7,189,106.

Interest on arrears of land revenue.—The total demand on account of interest on arrears of land revenue including the balance at the beginning of the fasli was Rs. 81,010 of which Rs. 15,294 was collected and Rs. 24,703 was remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 41,013.

Loans and advances.—The advances made under the Land Improvement Loans and Agriculturists' Loans Acts amounted to Rs. 26·87 lakhs as against Rs. 19·97 lakhs in the previous fasli. No amount was advanced during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans (Madras Amendment) Act, 1935, for the relief of agricultural indebtedness, as this scheme was suspended by the Government for the duration of the war.

The aggregate amount of principal and interest repayable during the year under the Land Improvement Loans and Agriculturists' Loans Acts including the balance remaining unpaid from previous years was Rs. 31,24,416, of which a sum of Rs. 22,60,186 or 72·3 per cent was collected and a sum of Rs. 3,260 was written off. The balance outstanding at the end of the year was Rs. 8,60,970 as against Rs. 6,08,510 in the previous year.

The total amount of principal and interest repayable during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans (Madras Amendment) Act, 1935, was Rs. 3,00,670 of which a sum of Rs. 2,76,973 was collected.

Minor Irrigation works.—There were 31,479 minor irrigation works in the Province in charge of the Revenue department against 31,576 in the previous fasli. The total amount spent on their repair during the official year ending 31st March 1946 was Rs. 15·28 lakhs as against 11·09 lakhs during the previous year.

Transport

Motor Vehicles Administration Report

The Motor Vehicles Administration Report for 1945–46 for the Madras Presidency is as usual mainly one of statistics showing the number of vehicles of different types, the number of drivers, conductors and operators of public passenger transport services and the number of prosecutions and convictions under the Motor Vehicles Act and under the Madras Traffic Rules. The report also contains information on the working of the Petrol Rationing and Spare Parts Control Orders. Goods vehicles numbered 2,663 in 1944–45 and 3,311 in 1945–46. The corresponding figures for buses were 3,092 and 3,662; for motor cars 10,430 and 9,796; for taxis 404 and 371; for motor cycles 1,458 and 1,513; for driving licences 35,591 and 41,374; for public service vehicle drivers' licences 11,124 and 10,514; for conductors' certificates 12,888 and 13,828; for convictions under the Motor Vehicles Act 6,525 and 8,454; for convictions for traffic offences 90,838 and 103,571; for petrol consumed 59·79 lakhs and 75·45 lakhs of gallons.

The marked increase in the number of goods vehicles was due to the release of more controlled vehicles during the year for the transport of essential goods such as foodgrains, estate produce, firewood, timber, skins and hides. In view of the severe curtailment of railway facilities, however, even this increased number of vehicles was unable to meet the demands for goods transport and freight charges continued to be very high.

The increase in the number of buses was mainly due to the improvement in the supply of tyre and spare parts and to the large number of controlled chasses released to operators in the course of the year. However, as in the case of goods vehicles the demand was far in excess of the transport facilities available. Attempts were made to introduce town bus services but success was limited due to the scarcity of vehicles. There was no competition between the railways and road transport operators as there was more than sufficient traffic for both. The maximum rates of bus fares fixed for buses on roads in the plains and ghat roads continued to be in force.

As the Government considered that concentration of passenger transport in the hands of well organized concerns owning at least 20 buses would provide better travelling facilities and would help economical working of all bus services existing small owners were given the option of absorption by such companies or of amalgamation among themselves to form concerns fulfilling these requirements. Consequently, there was a marked decrease in the number of small operators. There were 70 operators owning less than 20 buses and 119 operators owning 20 or more buses.

The Regional Transport authorities were reorganized with effect from 19th November 1945. The Boad Traffic boards in the districts were abolished and in their place 6 Regional Transport authorities were formed with authority over 6 zones. The District Magistrate of the district where the headquarters of the region is situated is the Chairman of the Regional Transport Authorities and other District Magistrates included in the region are Vice-Chairmen. The Regional Transport Officer is the Secretary; Presidents of the District Boards included in the region are members. There was no change in the constitution of the Road Traffic Board, Madras. The new authorities took over the functions of the previous Road Traffic Boards except the issue of driving licences, conductors' certificates and work connected with the registration of vehicles which continued to be done by the District Superintendents of Police concerned. In the Provincial Transport Authority, the Chief Engineer (Highways) was made a member in the place of the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards and the strength of the non-official members was increased from 1 to 2, one to represent the northern districts, and the other the southern districts of the Province.

The control over giant tyres and tubes for transport vehcles was completely lifted in December 1945 after ensuring that all dealers held sufficient stock for sale to the public and that there could be no possibility of blackmarketing. There was a gradual and steady improvement in the petrol supply position which made it unnecessary to enforce the compulsory fitment of producer gas plants to transport vehicles. The basic rations for private cars and motor cycles were doubled with effect from 1st August 1945. Out of the 135 items of spare parts which were controlled under the Motor Vehicles Spare Parts Control Order, 1944, 71 items (including batteries) were decontrolled during the year but there was no improvement with regard to the supply of important spare parts which remained very difficult to get. Control over used motor cars was withdrawn in December 1945. As the tyre situation improved considerably in 1945 and as there was a substantial fall in the number of bullock shoe collections during the last months of 1945, the compaign for the collection of bullock shoes from roads as a measure of saving tyres was discontinued at the end of the year.

Miscellaneous

No Ban on Export of Cattle

The Government wish to make it generally known that the Provincial ban on the export of cattle, sheep and goats from this Province ceased to be operative with the expiry of the Defence of India Rules.

[3rd April]

Special Officers for Municipalities

The term of office of Municipal Councillors was fixed so as to expire on the 31st of March 1947. It has been now decided not to extend the term further, but to place all municipalities in charge of Special Officers, on and from that date. The Commissioners of the Municipalities have been appointed as Special Officers.

Cost of Living Index

Enquiries into the family budgets of industrial workers and low-paid employees in the Province were conducted in the year 1935–36, when conditions were normal. This year has been adopted as the base year for the compilation of cost of living indices for Madras City and eight mufassal centres, viz., Vizagapatam, Ellore, Bellary, Cuddalore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Coimbatore and Calicut. Though there have been changes in the other items entering into the cost of living index due to changes in price levels, the index relating to house-rent has been kept constant so far at the level of 1935–36, as there have been no appreciable fluctuations necessitating a change in the index. The Madras Buildings and Rent Control Act came into force with effect from 1st October 1946. As this permits the enhancement of house-rent up to specified percentages, the question of revising the index for house-rent was taken up and an enquiry was conducted in Madras City and mufassal centres to determine the current rent corresponding to the base rent in the index. The current rents so determined will be incorporated in the cost of living index numbers from March onwards. As compared with the base rents, the current rents show an increase which ranges from 32 per cent in the case of Bellary to 129 per cent in the case of Coimbatore. Consequently, there will be a corresponding increase in the cost of living index numbers for the nine urban centres. It should be remembered that the increase reflected in the index numbers is not an increase that has accrued all on a sudden but that it is an increase in the current rents that have accrued gradually since the base period 1935–36.

[31st March]

Recruitment of War Service Candidates

Under the various rules framed by the Government from time to time a number of substantive and temporary vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment has been reserved for candidates with war service. With a view to reconcile the claims of war service candidates for the reserved vacancies in Government service and the claims of those who were recruited to civil posts on a temporary basis, the Government have decided that roughly $66\frac{2}{3}$ per cent of all reserved vacancies should be allotted to candidates with war service and that the remaining $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of vacancies may go to civilians who have been filling the posts temporarily.

The expression "who have been filling the posts temporarily" refers only to those holding the posts after regular selection and appointment and does not include those appointed under the emergency provisions.

The Government wish to make it clear that if in any particular class or category of posts the total number of reserved vacancies is small, it will not be possible to allocate vacancies between war service candidates and civilians strictly in accordance with the percentages mentioned above. In such cases, allocation has been made in the most judicious and practical manner.

In the case of "civilians" who were selected for appointment before 2nd June 1944, selection for retention in service against civilian vacancies should be regulated according to seniority as provided in General rule 7. As regards those selected and appointed on or after 2nd June 1944 and who have no probationary rights, only the most suitable will be retained, irrespective of seniority but subject to the communal rule where it normally applies.

If any of the vacancies allotted to civilians are now unfilled or are filled by persons appointed under the emergency provisions, such vacancies may be filled by promotion or transfer in accordance with the special rules concerned or thrown open to the public, which term will include "war

service" candidates and "non-war service" candidates who are holding the posts under the emergency provisions and those not in the service of Government. War service candidates competing for these vacancies will not be allowed any special privileges or concessions as regards age, qualifications, etc., except in the case of those who applied or may apply in response to an advertisement inviting applications published by the Commission on or before 4th February 1947.

Similarly, if there are not enough suitable and qualified war service candidates to fill all the vacancies reserved for them, the vacancies for which there may be no such candidates should be allotted to temporary Government servants (i.e., persons appointed regularly) as laid down in rule 3 (4) (*a*) of the Madras Civil Services (War Service Personnel) Recruitment Rules, 1941, and when such persons are not available they may be filled by open competition.

In the case, however, of the posts of Civil Assistant Surgeons (Men's Section), Sub-Assistant Surgeons (Men's Section), Nurses, First-class Health Officers and Second-class Health Officers, the vacancies allotted to civilians should be filled by candidates who have held during the period of the war or are holding the posts after regular appointment or under the emergency provisions. Selection for retention will be made by the appropriate selecting authority from among the best and most suitable of them. If sufficient number of candidates of the above two categories are not available, the unfilled vacancies will be filled by direct recruitment.

The I.N.A.

The Government have decided that I.N.A. personnel should be treated in exactly the same way as ex-servicemen and that they should have equal claims for appointment to the reserved vacancies except in the Police services. Such persons will be eligible for all the concessions allowed to persons who have rendered war service in the matter of appointment to the public service. Membership of the I.N.A. should not also be regarded as a 'bad antecedent' for the purpose of recruitment to the public service.

Disabled Ex-Servicemen

The Government have also decided that disabled ex-service personnel should be allowed to compete for the reserved posts (not involving executive work) and that the physical standards prescribed for those posts should be relaxed in their favour, provided the disabled personnel are adjudged to be suitable in other respects. One per cent (included in the 66⅔ per cent of vacancies allotted to war service personnel) of the total vacancies should be treated as having been reserved for disabled ex-service personnel.

The Government have decided that roughly 50 per cent of the total number of vacancies thrown open to war service personnel less the number already filled by such persons should be made available for demobilized persons who have applied for appointment before 30th June 1946 and that the remaining 50 per cent should be made available for demobilized persons who have applied or may apply after that date and before a date to be specified later. [2nd April]

Housing Problem

Government propose to appoint a wholetime Rent Controller for Madras and an additional Rent Controller for a period of three months to clear applications for housing accommodation awaiting disposal, stated Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Housing, in the Legislative Assembly on March 31.

The question of providing housing accommodation for the people of the Province is now engaging the active consideration of the Government, added Mr. Daniel Thomas.

Statistics of Textile Mills in the Province

Replying to a question from Mr. N. M. R. Subbaraman, Mr. H. Sitharama Reddi, Minister for Industries, stated in the Assembly on March 26, that there were 55 textile mills in the Province of which 45 were purely spinning mills, 8 combined spinning and weaving mills though producing surplus yarn for handlooms and 2 purely weaving mills. The number of mills working one shift was 2, those working two shifts were 39, those working two and a half shifts were 9, and those working three shifts were 3. There was one mill in the Province which was not working.

Export Licences for Handloom Cloth

The Industries Minister, Mr. H. Sitarama Reddi, in the course of a reply to a question, stated in the Council on 29th March that it was the intention of the Government to do away with all cases of inequalities in the matter of granting export licences and quotas for handloom cloth.

Premier's Appeal to Workers

My purpose in talking to you this evening is to repeat the appeal I made through the Press two days ago for the maintenance of law and order. The Madras City has been threatened with a general strike. This arose out of the strike of 14,000 workers in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills. They struck work on 11th March 1947 over more than 25 demands. The Government appointed a Court of Enquiry, but the President of the Madras Labour Union, Mr. Anthoni Pillai, refused to co-operate with the Court and wanted the Government to allow him to negotiate direct with the management. The Government gave him three days' time and asked the management to assist in resolving the deadlock. But even before the time-limit expired, Mr. Anthoni Pillai informed the Government that the negotiations had broken down over two main issues, viz., the amount of bonus and dearness allowance. Now while communicating the fact of the failure of the negotiations, Mr. Anthoni Pillai also said that only time could settle the dispute. In other words, he wanted the strike to continue indefinitely. Government could naturally not allow this. No one, particularly a labour leader, should embark on a strike precipitately as Mr. Anthoni Pillai did and then refuse to allow the legal machinery meant to resolve strikes to function. A challenge to duly constituted Government, particularly a people's Government, should be met with a view to enforce law and order. So when there was no way of settling the strike because the leader was obstructive and unhelpful, he had to be arrested. Statements have appeared in the Press and have been repeated on the platform that he was arrested when negotiations were proceeding. From what has been said above, it is clear that these are all false.

The points in dispute are too many for the Government to settle by discussion. Besides, the Government should not ordinarily be dragged into such controversies when the Statute provides alternative means. Government intervention in settling strikes should be confined to setting in motion the prescribed legal machinery and taking a decision on the findings of such machinery. Hundreds of trade disputes occur all over the Province and if Government were to act otherwise in every case and meddle in individual cases, how can they attend to their legitimate work and what is the purpose of providing for conciliation, arbitration and adjudication ?

On the reports received of the result of the negotiations between Mr. Anthoni Pillai and the management of the mills, it is clear that the management conceded a number of demands, but that the discussions failed on the questions of dearness allowance and bonus. The present bonus distributed by the company is almost equal in value to that in Coimbatore. The dearness allowance is 3 annas, a point over 100 in the cost of living index and is over Rs. 25 per mensem per worker now. I leave it to my listeners to judge whether this is reasonable or not. I do not wish to judge because, as I said, I would rather leave it to a Court, who would be in a better position to consider the question in all aspects and appraise properly the repercussions of any change on other textile mills and industries in the Province. On the other hand the management offered to set apart five lakhs of rupees for housing labour if the demands for extra bonus and dearness allowance were abandoned. They even offered to raise the amount so set apart subsequently. But Mr. Anthoni Pillai declined to accept this offer. I do not see what can be done by the Government to settle a dispute if one side declines to compromise at all.

For his arrest, a general strike is threatened, tomorrow. I want to ask those concerned not to resort to this extreme and dangerous course. Let them come and tell me what their grievances are instead of putting the public to unnecessary trouble and inconvenience. No strike of this nature can be entirely peaceful and I do not wish to see the people of this Province courting trouble and breaches of peace. I therefore made a last minute effort to prevent the hartal by offering Government intervention. After discussion for over one and a half hours, the acting President of the Union, Sri Pakkiriswami Pillai and the strike leader, Sri T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar, declined to open negotiations with the Government unless Mr. Anthoni Pillai is released. Government are not prepared to order his release at present and have told the labour leaders so. I appealed to them to assist in calling off the hartal tomorrow. They have expressed their inability to do so. But I do feel that labour cannot be so irresponsible as to wish to create chaotic conditions in the City even for a day. I therefore appeal to workers to abandon the hartal. I also appeal to them to appreciate the situation in the B. & C. Mills properly and allow the Government to resolve the strike through the machinery prescribed by law. I need not assure the people that my sympathies and the sympathies of the Ministry are entirely with labour and I do hope that the workers would respond to my appeal. [*A talk broadcast by the Premier on the eve of 31st March 1947.*]

Famine Relief Grants

The following allotments from the grant of the Indian Peoples' Famine Trust have been made for providing further relief to persons affected by the recent floods in the districts mentioned below :—

	RS.
Nellore	2,500
Cuddapah	2,500
Chingleput	5,000
South Arcot	5,000
Salem	5,000

Policemen's Pay Revised

The Government have decided to sanction the following revised scales of pay to the Police Subordinates mentioned below with effect from 1st April 1947 :—

Posts.	Scale sanctioned in G.O. No. 78, Finance, dated 6th February 1947.	Revised scale now sanctioned.
	1. Madras Police Subordinate Service.	
	RS.	RS.
Constables—		
1 While under training.	19	20.
2 Remaining period of probation.	21	25.
3 After completion of probation.	25—½ (A)—35.	30—½ (A)—40.
Head Constables ..	35—1—40(E.B.) —1—45.	40—1—50(E.B.) —2—60.
Duffadars and lance duffadars of the Sowar Troop—	..	40—1—50(E.B.) —2—60.
I Grade ..	45.	
II Grade ..	40.	
III Grade ..	35.	
Havildars-Major ..	55	70.
	2. Malabar Special Police Subordinate Service.	
Constables	27—½ (A)—38.	32—½ (A)—43.
Naiks	40—½ (A)—46.	45—½ (A)—50.
Havildars	48—½ (A)—53.	55—½ (A)—60.
Havildars-Major ..	54—½ (A)—59.	65—½ (A)—70.

National Savings Certificates

Madras City stood first in the sale of National Savings Certificates, with 3,220,610, of the total collection in the province amounting to Rupees 1,68,75,274. These figures are for the period between the 1st of April 1946 and the 8th of March 1947.

Resettlement News

In Bellary three ex-servicemen were placed. Sixty-seven men have been appointed in Chingleput district.

Two-hundred and thirteen men have so far been found employment in South Kanara. One-hundred and ninety-three men in Trichinopoly district have been placed during the month.

In South Arcot, 33 men have been placed during the fortnight ending 15th March 1947. Twenty-one men have been found employment, in this fortnight, in Cuddapah ; 5 men in Nellore and about 200 men in the City of Madras.

All-India Resettlement Scheme

The number of persons placed in employment by the Resettlement and Employment Organization of the Government of India in February, 1947, was 11,380, bringing the total number of persons thus placed up to the end of that month to 139,961. The placings include appointments to 56,421 vacancies in Central and Provincial Government Departments and 7,692 to reserved vacancies in the Railway Administrations.

Direct employment assistance to which these statistics relate forms only a part of the activities of the Central and Provincial Governments in regard to resettling ex-services personnel. Other forms of assistance offered to returning ex-servicemen, to mention only a few, are provisions for technical and vocational training and for resettlement on land through land colonization schemes, facilities for setting up co-operative societies, issue of yarn and other specific commodity permits, further education, etc.

Up to the end of February, 26,409 ex-services personnel had been selected and posted to 179 Training Centres. This figure includes 21,180 ex-servicemen posted to Technical Training Centres, 2,715 to Vocational Training Centres, 2,064 to Training Centres for the war-disabled and 450 women posted to institutes where training is being imparted to ex-servicewomen. The number of persons actually under training at the end of the month was 8,286 of whom 1,247 were disabled persons.

Elimination of Uncertified Khadi

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, replying to a question from Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rao regarding the Khadi policy of the Government, stated in the Council on March 29, that it was proposed by the Government to eliminate the production and sale of uncertified khadi in the following areas :—(1) The areas in which the " intensive " part of the Government Khadi scheme is in force, (2) the firkas selected for the extensive part of the Khadi scheme, (3) all the villages lying within a distance of 10 miles beyond the limits of the " intensive areas ", (4) villages within a belt of ten miles beyond the production centres of the All-India Spinners' Association and other organizations certified by the All-India Spinners' Association and other approved organizations, (5) Coimbatore and Erode Municipalities, and (6) Madura town.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 29th March 1947

The Southern India Mill Owners Association, Coimbatore, at its meeting held on 16th March 1947 resolved to recommend to its 'Member Mills' in Coimbatore district, payment of an additional bonus of two months basic earned wages for the year 1946 on or before 25th March 1947 as suggested by the Hon'ble the Premier.

The workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mill Company, Limited, Madras, struck work on 11th March 1947 demanding more bonus, dearness allowance, reinstatement of workers, etc., in spite of the Government's warning that the strike would be illegal. The Government have referred all the demands of the union to a Court of Enquiry. As the workers preferred to come to a settlement with the management by direct negotiation, the Hon'ble Minister for Labour sent for Sri S. C. C. Anthoni Pillai, President of the Madras Labour Union and the management and advised them to come to an early settlement.

The President of the Commercial Employees' Association, Madras, has issued a notice of strike to Management of Burmah Shell Company, intimating that the workers will go on strike on or after 10th April 1947, if their demands, for bonus, Provident Fund, reinstatement of a watchman, etc., are not conceded before that date. The Commissioner of Labour is looking into the matter.

The Government of Madras have referred the question of grant of interim relief to the workers of the motor transport services in the Madras Province to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of Messrs. Hoe & Co., regarding gratuity, provident fund, wages, etc., Madras and Trichinopoly, to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication, and the dispute between the workers and the managements of Sri Balasubramania Mills, Limited, and the Kothari Textiles, Limited, Singanallur, to the District and Sessions Judge, Coimbatore.

The Radhakrishna Mills, Limited, Pellamedu, stopped working from 1–30 p.m. to 4–30 p.m. on 22nd March 1947 on account of the stay-in-strike staged by the doffer boys of the spinning department demanding enhanced wages for work done on behalf of absentees.

The doffing boys again staged a stay-in-strike from 7–30 p.m. to 9–50 p.m. on 25th March 1947 for the same reason. The Court of Enquiry is expected to settle the dispute regarding wages for work done when some workers of the section are absent.

The workers of the Kothari Textiles, Limited, Singanallur, staged a stay-in-strike from 4–30 p.m. on 24th to 26th March 1947 as a protest against the punishment of a worker, who assaulted the maistry. The dispute has been settled by Conciliation by the Labour Officer, Coimbatore.

The lock-out of the Rajahmundry Printing Presses declared on 7th March 1947 has been lifted on 24th March 1947. The District Magistrate, East Godavari, has been asked to bring about a settlement.

The Carpentry and Saw Mill Workers' Union, Anjapuram, Rajahmundry, has postponed the date of the strike to 10th April 1947. The Labour Officer, Vizagapatam and District Magistrate, East Godavari, has been asked to settle the dispute.

The Tobacco workers of the National Tobacco Company, Limited, Pasuvamalai Branch, Chilakalurpet, struck work from 20th March 1947 demanding increased wages and other conditions of service. The local Police had to open fire on account of violent picketing by strikers. The District Magistrate, Guntur, and the District Superintendent of Police, Guntur, rushed to the spot with an armed reserve and restored order.

The ban imposed by the Additional District Magistrate, Madura, on 8th March 1947 for 15 days following a threat of general strike in the local textile mills has been extended for a further period of 10 days. The workers have been advised not to resort to strike pending the result of the court of enquiry.

The Joint Secretary, Madura Textile Worker's Union, Madura, has issued a notice of strike to the Management of the Kothandram Weaving Mill, Madura, on 25th March 1947 intimating that the workers will go on strike on or after 8th April 1947 if demands for bonus equivalent to 25 per cent of the total earnings of 1946, increase of dearness allowance, interim relief to clerical staff, etc., are not conceded by the management before 8th April 1947. The Labour Officer, Madura, has been advised to settle the dispute on the lines of the settlement effected by Government in respect of Mahalakshmi Mills, Madura.

The Management of the Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke, have decided to close down their tile factory from 15th March 1947 following a strike without notice. The report of the Labour Officer, Calicut, is awaited.

The strike in the Coir factories of Ponnani taluk was called off on 15th March 1947 as a result of settlement by direct negotiations.

The strike of the beedi workers of three beedi factories belonging to Messrs. R.V.G. Company, Palghat, Pudunagaram, Kouvayur and Kollengode, terminated on 18th March 1947, as a result of direct negotiation between the workers and their employees.

The Palghat beedi workers' strike has been called off.

The workers of three saw mills in Kallai (1) the South Indian Saw Mills, (2) the Dutt Saw Mills and (3) the Premier Saw Mills struck work from 24th March 1947 demanding increased wages and other conditions of service. The Labour Officer has been instructed to advise to the workers to resume work and await the result of the court of enquiry proposed to be appointed for saw mills in West Coast area.

The workers of the Premier Saw Mills, Kallai, have issued a notice of strike to the management of the mills intimating that they will on go strike from 24th March 1947 if their demands for increase of wages and dearness allowance, bonus of three months' wages, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management before 23rd March 1947. The workers have been advised to await the result of the court of enquiry for saw mills in West Coast proposed to be appointed by Government.

The President, V.K.U. and Sons Saw Mills Workers Union, Chalapuram, has issued a notice on 24th March 1947 to the management of the V.K.U. and Sons Saw Mills, Prethiyapalam, intimating that the workers will go on strike from 7th April 1947 if their demands for increase of wages and dearness allowances, three months' wages as bonus, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has been asked to advise the workers to await the results of the court of enquiry to be appointed for saw mills in West Coast.

The Government of Madras have added one more issue regarding reinstatement of the 8 clerks of the Standard Furniture Company, Limited, Kallai, who struck work on 10th February 1947, to the issues already referred to the District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar, for adjudication. The workers have been advised to resume work.

The workers of the Mettur Industries, Limited, Mettur Dam, who struck work on 15th February 1947, have been advised to resume work pending the result of the Court of Enquiry.

The day shift workers of the Jawahar Mills, Limited, Salem Junction, staged a stay-in-strike on 19th March 1947 and 20th March 1947 as a protest against loss of service for absentees.

About 3,100 workers of the Chittivalasa Jute Mills Company, Limited, Chittivalasa, struck work from 6–45 a.m. on 18th March 1947 to 6–45 a.m. on 19th March 1947 to observe "Basic Demands Day."

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the adjudication in the dispute between the workers and the managements of tanneries in Ellore regarding interim relief.

Baby Brand Condensed Milk unfit

Dr. P. Marthandam Pillai, Chairman, Standing Committee (Health), Corporation of Madras, writes :— The public are warned against the use of "Baby brand" condensed milk, made in U.S.A., as certain tins of the above brand have been analysed by the Analyst of the Corporation of Madras and found unfit for human consumption. The Health Officer is in communication with the importers of this stuff and is trying to trace the stock in the city to deal with it suitably.

* * * *

The plenary session of the Inter-Asian Conference adopted on March 26, a four-point report on racial problems and inter-racial migration. The report suggested that there should be—

(1) complete legal equality of all citizens,
(2) complete religious freedom of all citizens,
(3) no public social disqualification of any racial group,
(4) equality before law of persons of foreign origin who have settled in the country.

"Reconciliation of each man with all men"

Aim and Substance of Co-operation

Sir S. V. Ramamurthi's message to Andhra Co-operators

["All over the world there are conflicting ideologies for the rebuilding of life. At one end stand the protagonists of the individual and the freedom of private enterprise. America is their bulwark. At the other end stand the protagonists of collectivism and the supremacy of the state. Russia is their head. India stands midway, with her faith both in the one and in the all, both in unity and in diversity, both in the freedom of the individual and the integration of humanity. Co-operation is an apt description of this reconciliation of each man with all men."]

In the course of a message to the Andhra Co-operative Union on the occasion of the celebration of its Silver Jubilee which took place at Rajahmundry on April 5, Sir S. V. Ramamurthy, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, said—

"India is a land of faith, of many forms of faith. We have long had spiritual faith in the form of religion, political faith in the shape of democracy and economic faith in the form of co-operation have come to us from Europe. Both are akin to our spiritual faith that one is all and all are one. Democracy asserts the freedom of the individual. That is what our religion seeks. Co-operation seeks the integration of individuals into a common whole. That, too, is the goal of our religion.

"It is the way of India to believe and then see. It has been said that unless you believe in God, you cannot see him. The fervour of co-operators in India has been the basis of their efforts, patient, long-drawn and persistent, in spite of discouragement from external circumstances as well from our character resulting from our history.

"History has now begun to give us a fairer deal than it has for some two centuries. The evils of a Colonial economy have sapped the foundations of our life and rendered our blood anæmic. Our economic resources of land and water, intelligence and labour, have had the primary task laid on them to satisfy the needs of an imperial economy which functioned in India through ports and towns. Commerce took the lead over internal welfare. The organization of urban life took precedence over that of rural life. The result has been that villages have been more and more left with the dregs of our life and cream—such cream as was left—was drained to towns. When the energy left to conserve and construct villages was failing, it is no wonder that agriculture and cottage industries languished and emphasis was laid mainly on big industry and on trade. We are now left with 80 per cent of our population overcrowding on land and only 20 per cent left to depend on industry and other sources. Only a few decades back, these proportions were 70 per cent and 30 per cent. To be a healthy nation, India needs, I believe, to provide for 60 per cent of her people on land and 40 per cent in industry and services. The re-organization of the economic life of India in this manner is the great task that awaits New India as she develops a free economy.

Conflicting Ideologies

"All over the world, there are conflicting ideologies for the rebuilding of life. At one end stand the protagonists of the individual and the freedom of private enterprise. America is their bulwark. At the other end stand the protogonists of collectivism and the supremacy of the state. Russia is their head. India stands midway with her faith both in the one and in the all, both in unity and in diversity, both in the freedom of the individual and the integration of humanity. Co-operation is an apt description of this reconciliation of each man with all men.

"It is not therefore surprising that in India thoughts and faith are steadily veering in favour of co-operation. In Agriculture we seek not small farming, not collective farming, but co-operative farming. In Industry, we seek the strengthening of the individual producer through financial and technical co-operation and where large industry is needed, we seek to soften its rigidity by financial and technical decentralization."

Continuing, Sir S. V. Ramamurthy said :—

"You have been the inheritors of a Colonial economy. You will now be the builders of a free

economy. You had to stint and save and distribute from the earnings of your poverty and subordination. You have now the duty and privilege of working out an economics of plenty. The Godavari has been flowing in your land for many centuries. In the Ramayana there are descriptions of the Godavari and of the rice that grows in your land. Some 25 centuries of history link you with this river and with rice. Yet over 90 per cent of the water of this river flows waste into the sea. Thanks to Sir Arthur Cotton, a great Christian and a great Engineer, a small part of the river's waters have been used to protect the Godavari and Kistna Deltas. With a state that is bent on increasing the standard of living of the people, it should be a disgrace to waste the fresh water that God gives us.

" So, too, the Tungabhadra has been flowing by the Ceded Districts and yet witnessing famine on its banks. So, too, waterfalls in the Eastern Ghats have been wasting their energies for lack of facilities to harness them and draw hydro-electric power. Till now, there is not a single river—reservoir or a single Hydro-Electric Power Station in the north of this province.

Three Schemes

" I have therefore set my hand to three such schemes, of which the Tungabhadra Reservoir Scheme and Machkand Hydro-Electric Scheme have been sanctioned and are under construction, and the Ramapadasagar Scheme will, I hope, be started before I retire from the service of the Government in November next. It is my hope that Gandhiji, the maker of modern India, may inaugurate with his blessings an irrigation scheme which is not only the biggest in India but one of the biggest in the world.

" These schemes will raise the economic life of North Madras to a new level. Gathering as you do in the Godavari Region, let me make a suggestion to you as co-operators. The Ramapadasagar Scheme is expected to produce a million tons of additional rice, valued at about 25 crores of rupees a year. With this flood of wealth in the land, it will be possible to make up for some of the drying of life in our people. If in each village which will get a large addition of wealth through the scheme, a Co-operative group of the people arrange to get a voluntary gift of a fraction of the increased wealth—perhaps, a fourth—to rebuild life in the village, it will be possible to provide for education and health, communications and culture in the village, so that as the wealth of the land grows, so too does its welfare with voluntary co-operation as the means. I venture to hope that petty feelings and self-seeking will vanish as when men who quarrel over the division of one loaf live in amity and cheerfulness when they have a plate of loaves from which they may eat their full."

Application of Communal G.O.

Mr. Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib asked in the Assembly on March 28, why Government were not following the communal Government Order in making appointments to the Textile department, Firka Development Scheme, and producers *cum* consumers' co-operative societies.

Mr. H. Sitarama Reddi, Minister for Industries, replying stated that, as the Textile Control department was a temporary one, appointments to it were not being made on communal basis. The Government declared that the conditions of service in that department were matters not suitable for regulation by rule. Hence, the principle of communal rotation was not applicable to the appointment of officers in that department.

As for the Firka Development schemes, the following considerations were being borne in mind in selecting persons for filling the posts sanctioned in connection with the scheme :—(*a*) Possession of necessary enthusiasm and aptitude for rural reconstruction work, (*b*) organization capacity and (*c*) ability to feel at home in rural surroundings and to study the needs of the villagers with sympathy and understanding. The Government attached very great importance to the successful working of the scheme of intensive rural reconstruction and in order to obtain the services of the best men available possessing the qualifications mentioned above for filling the posts sanctioned in connection with the scheme, they were not making appointments on any communal basis.

In respect of the producers *cum* consumers' co-operative societies, they were organized in Malabar and in Northern Circars districts under the special schemes of procurement and distribution sponsored by Government. The societies were new to the work entrusted to them and they therefore required efficient men as secretaries, who alone would be able to manage the work of these societies on sound business lines. Selection to the posts of secretaries was made after rigorous tests. For lower posts in the societies, it was intended to employ as far as possible suitable men from among the staff under the private merchants, ousted on account of the formation of the societies. Further, the societies were non-official bodies and the communal Goverment Order would not apply to them.

Food situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 15th March

Seasonal conditions.—There was no rainfall during the fortnight in the Ceded Districts or in the coastal districts to the north of Madras. The other districts had generally light showers—which were beneficial to the standing crops and to the second-crop sowings. Water-supply for agricultural purposes was generally sufficient in all districts.

The level of water in the Mettur reservoir was 109·60 feet on 15th March 1947 as against 12·05 feet on 15th February 1946.

Sowing or transplantation of paddy was proceeding in the districts of Vizagapatam, East Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad, Malabar and South Kanara, and of dry crops in the districts of Vizagapatam, Cuddapah, Nellore, South Arcot, Chittoor, Coimbatore and Ramnad. Sowing for the next potato crop in the Nilgiris district is in progress.

Chillies and tobacco crops in parts of Guntur district are reported to have been damaged by rains. White cholam and mixed cotton crops in Bellary district, second-crop paddy and standing white cholam crops in parts of Anantapur district, tender paddy crop in parts of Cuddapah district and cholam and cumbu crops in Coimbatore district are reported to have been affected by pests. In Ramnad district, standing paddy crop is reported to be withering in some parts. The tea crop in the Nilgiris district has been afflicted with blister blight. The condition of the standing crops in the other districts is generally fair.

Harvest of paddy was completed in the districts of Kistna, Nellore and Vizagapatam, was nearing completion in Tanjore district and was progressing in the districts of Bellary, Cuddapah, Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevelly, Malabar and South Kanara. Harvest of dry crops was proceeding in the districts of East Godavari, Kurnool, Bellary, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chingleput, Chittoor, Salem, Coimbatore, Madura and Ramnad. The out turn of paddy in Kistna, South Arcot and Tanjore districts and of cholam in Kurnool district was reported to be below normal. The out turn was generally fair in the other districts.

Price.—There was no perceptible change in the prices of foodgrains. As regards pulses, the only noticeable change was in the price of blackgram dholl which increased by 10·2 per cent. There was a slight fall in the price of chillies. The position regarding the prices of oils, oilseeds, oil-cakes, etc., was as follows :—

No change.—Copra.

Rise.—Groundnut (machine shelled) (10 per cent), gingelly seed (6·1 per cent), gingelly oil (5·7 per cent) and groundnut oil (5·5 per cent).

Fall.—Coconut oil (2·4 per cent), gingelly oil cake (1·2 per cent), groundnut oil cake (5·5 per cent) and cotton seed (1·5 per cent).

(*a*) Local procurement—

	TONS.	
Paddy	57,872	Together equivalent to 77,781 tons in terms of rice.
Rice	38,866	
Millets	2,833	

(*b*) Receipts from other Provinces—

	TONS.	
Rice	6,522	
Millets	..	
Wheat	37	Samba wheat from Hyderabad.
Wheat products.	..	
Pulses—		
Redgram ..	..	
Blackgram ..	599	
Greengram ..	..	
Bengalgram ..	3,353	
Total pulses ..	3,952	

(*c*) Imports from overseas—

Rice	..
Millets	..
Wheat	..
Wheat products.	..
Maize, etc. ..	..

Stock and supply

Rice.—The stock of rice in the Province was 251,643 tons on 13th March 1947 as against 206,588 tons on 27th February 1947. Movement of quotas from the northern surplus districts to deficit districts has been very much behind programme due to difficulties in procurement experienced by the new procurement agency, viz., the producers-*cum*-consumers' co-operative societies. Towards the end of the fortnight, the societies had taken steps to procure substantial

quantities and it is hoped that the delay in movement of quotas will be made up in the second fortnight. Procurement in Guntur came almost to a standstill and the export quota allotted to it for March 1947 had therefore to be transferred to Kistna and West Godavari districts. As a result, the districts in the western parts of the Province were not able to build up adequate stocks.

In Coimbatore district owing to lack of other grains the rice ration had to be reduced to 6 oz. to rice-eaters and 6 oz. of whatever grain was available to millet and mixed diet-eaters, in the rural areas. Arrangements are being made to move rice and other foodgrains to the district to enable the district to restore the 12 oz. ration.

Orders have been issued to raise the rice ration to 12 oz. in Madura district on the 23rd March and in Ramnad and Tinnevelly districts on the 1st April, as the stock position in these districts is improving. In the districts of Salem, the Nilgiris and Malabar and in the Madras City stocks have still to be built up before the rice supplies can be increased to 12 oz.

Millets.—Stocks of millets increased slightly during the fortnight from 14,284 tons to 15,695 tons. The millets off-take has dropped from 15,693 tons in December to 10,143 tons in January and approximately 9,000 tons in February. The millets stocks continued to be low in Coimbatore, Nellore, Nilgiris and Guntur. But, all these districts, particularly Coimbatore, are importing substantial quotas from other districts.

Maize.—The maize stock has decreased from 11,409 tons to 9,223 tons. The off-take has dropped from 6,581 tons in January to about 5,400 tons in February. There is still a strong demand for maize from Coimbatore district and total quotas of 3,640 tons have been allotted to the district out of which about 1,600 tons have moved so far.

Wheat.—Wheat stocks have fallen from 7,884 tons to 6,906 tons. Movement of the 11,000 tons of wheat to United Provinces is almost completed and the movement of the 750 tons of wheat to Central Provinces has commenced. Stocks of wheat are low in several districts, but most of these districts are being supplied from surplus stocks in other districts. The wheat off-take has dropped from about 10,000 tons in January to about 5,040 tons in February.

Wheat products.—Stocks have fallen from 4,037 tons to 3,502 tons. The off-take has decreased from 1,244 tons in January to 812 tons in February. As in the case of maize and wheat, no imports of wheat products are expected in the near future.

Barley.—Stocks of barley have fallen from 3,257 tons to 2,062 tons. Out of the 2,362 tons allotted to United Provinces approximately 2,135 tons have so far moved. The off-take of barley is still low being less than 100 tons per month in February.

Rye.—Rye stocks have fallen from 640 tons to 500 tons. Stocks are being transferred from Madura to Coimbatore where rye is popular.

Pulses.—Stock position is satisfactory in most districts. Imports of bengalgram and greengram have been speeded up as a result of the Assistant Commissioner's (Movements) tour in North West India. Additional quotas of bengalgram have been allotted from the following places :—

500 tons from Patiala.
1,500 tons from Faridkot.
1,000 tons from Nabha.
2,050 tons from Jind.

Government have now issued orders for the introduction of intensive procurement of pulses throughout the Province. Informal rationing will also be introduced in statutorily rationed areas.

Rationing

During the fortnight orders were issued permitting bakers to make bread entirely with maida without any compulsion to take maize or barley flour. If however they want these commodities also for that purpose, they were allowed to take them within their ration.

The issue of wheat flour (maida) to catering and other establishments was stopped in order to conserve stocks till the arrival of fresh supplies.

Medical Officers are being informed that it is not compulsory to take wheat or wheat products as part of the diet of patients. The hospital authorities can now take their ration in whatever grain they want, keeping in view the necessity to conserve wheat and wheat products.

The restrictions regarding the issue of wheat and wheat products only to habitual eaters and to those who require them on medical grounds were extended during the fortnight to Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly districts.

Subsidiary Foodstuffs

Sugar.—In view of the low recovery of sugar from cane in all the sugar factories in the Province owing to unfavourable season, the South India Sugar Mills Association, Madras, have made a representation for the enhancement of sugar prices so as to compensate the factories for the loss sustained by them. The matter is under consideration.

Jaggery.—The Government have ordered the issue of permits for 3,000 tons to the nominees of the Government of the C.P. and Berar instead of to the merchants of this Province. This quantity will be counted against the current year's quota to C.P. and Berar. The Government have also ordered the issue of permits for the quota to Orissa for the current year to the nominees of the Orissa Government. The permits for these quotas will be issued by the Collector of Vizagapatam.

Edible Oils and Oilseeds.—The Government of India have lifted the control over the prices and movement of all edible oilseeds and oils, except copra and coconut oil, with effect from 5th March 1947.

Copra and Coconut Oil.—This province has an export quota of copra to Bombay and Sind. The question of allowing provisionally export of 1,500 tons to Bombay and 500 tons to Sind is under consideration.

As regards coconut oil, prices have been fixed by the Government. Instructions have also been issued to the Collectors of the importing districts regarding the import of the quotas allotted to them from Malabar, Cochin and Travancore and their distribution in the districts at the controlled prices. The Collector of Malabar has already issued permits for the export of the quantities allotted from that district.

Miscellaneous Commodities

Supply of charcoal was inadequate in parts of Nellore and Bellary districts and that of firewood in parts of Guntur, the Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Chingleput, Ramnad and Tinnevelly districts.

Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of South Arcot, Vizagapatam, Cuddapah, the Nilgiris, North Arcot, Bellary, Coimbatore, Kurnool, Trichinopoly, Kistna, Malabar and West Godavari. Already arrangements have been made in some districts like Bellary for the distribution of matches through ration shops and similar arrangements are proposed to be introduced in some other districts like Vizagapatam.

Settlement of Labour Questions

Replying to Mr. P. R. K. Sarma, Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Food Minister, said in the Council on 29th March that the general policy followed by the Government in regard to the appointment of adjudicators, conciliators and courts of enquiry, is to appoint officers of the status of District and Sessions Judge for such posts. In this connexion the other proposals that were under consideration of the Government were, " the Industrial Disputes Bill recently passed by the Central Assembly, the establishment of Wage Boards to fix minimum wages, the enforcement of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, the Workmen's Health Insurance Act, the Shops and Establishments Act and the Non-power Factories Act, the extension of welfare measures such as recreation centres, creches, housing schemes, etc., and the strengthening of the present conciliation staff.

The same member was informed that two courts of enquiry, one to enquire into the conditions of labour in motor transport services, motor transport workshops, engineering firms and type foundries, and the other to enquire into the conditions of labour in rice and oil mills have been appointed. The object of the enquiries was to have a comprehensive picture of the conditions of service of the workers in the above services and industries in the Province in order to standardize them as far as possible."

Communist Party's Extra-territorial Loyalty

The United States House of Representatives Committee on "un-American activities" has issued what it called proof that the United States Communist Party was " an agent " of the Soviet Government.

The Committee's report listed, identified and dated 92 " typical directives from Moscow, affecting the Communist movement in the United States."

It declares : " The Communist party on the United States has functioned at all times and throughout all its forms as an integral part of the Moscow-controlled world-wide Communist apparatus, submitting unreservedly to its decisions, placing its resources and individual members at the full disposal of the Soviet Government committee for assignment to duty in any part of the globe and receiving in return certain special branch office privileges."

The Moscow magazine " New Times," published in five languages, the report declares, " has become recognized as the successor to the Communist International, and its authoritative articles are accepted as dogma by all functioning of Communist parties, including that in the United States."—Reuter.

Comprehensive Zamindari Legislation

Revenue Minister's Statement

Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao

The Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao, Minister for Revenue, issued the following statement on the 3rd of April 1947 :—

No one in our Presidency will dispute either the urgency or the necessity of putting on the Statute Book legislation that will give relief as well as ameliorate the condition of the toiling ryot. The problems facing the ryot are many and can be tackled only by comprehensive legislation. In our Presidency there is need for zamindari legislation, a Ryot wari Act and an Act to define the relations between the cultivating tenant and the owner of the land. To face this triple problem the Congress Government has been taking steps and as early as 1939 the Prakasam Report was published and discussed in the Legislature. Soon after the Congress took office in this Province last year, suggestions were made to the Ministry to bring forward immediately a Bill for the abolition of the zamindaris as such. The matter came up before the Congress Legislature Party, but it was pointed out by the then Hon'ble Premier that for abolishing zamindaris, the prior sanction of His Majesty the King was necessary under the Government of India Act, 1935, and that may delay matters. So he said that he would arrange for the simultaneous introduction of two Bills, one for the abolition of the zamindaris and the other for the reduction of rent to the 1802 level in zamindari areas. After the lapse of some four or five months, the Government tabled a resolution asking the vote of the Legislative Council for the abolition of the zamindaris. No Bill was drafted. The other Bill, the Madras Estates Land Revenue Bill, 1947, was published. The resolution for the abolition of the zamindaris was adopted by the Council, but is yet to be discussed in the Assembly. The other Bill has not yet been introduced. This is the present position with reference to the zamindari legislation.

The public are aware that at present there is no Act to deal with the ryotwari areas in the Presidency. Survey, settlement and administration are subject to the Board's Standing Orders, of course, under the supervision of the Government. It is also a well-known fact that the land revenue in ryotwari areas was increased from settlement to settlement. The medium to settle the principles on which these have to be done and to fix the rates which can be safely collected as land revenue have to be settled.

The Marjoribanks Committee recommended the cancellation of the percentage increase imposed at resettlements in certain districts resettled after 1914. That report was not published. Subsequently during the last Ministry, the then Revenue Minister sought to bring about a universal reduction in the incidence of land-tax, but till now no effect has been given and even the yearly remission that was being granted was given the go-by during the war period.

The public are also aware of the fact that absentee landlordism is growing at a rapid speed throughout the Presidency. The landless are increasing while land has become a subject of investment by the non-cultivating classes. This tendency has got to be checked. The relation between the cultivating tenant and the non-cultivating owner has got to be defined. A Special Officer was appointed to go into this question but his report is not yet ready. In order to give a logical basis to the land revenue taxation the Government have already gazetted a Bill to levy agricultural income-tax on agricultural incomes above a certain figure.

No delay intended

Having taken charge of office only six days ago all these problems for the solution of which I have been striving for years either as a public worker or a

back-bench legislator are forcing themselves on my thoughts. I must also frankly state, personally speaking, that I would like a comprehensive reform under all the heads and that within the quickest possible time. One important matter which will have to be decided by the present Government is whether to proceed with the Estates Land Revenue Bill forthwith or not. Certain friends feel that it should be proceeded with. But others say that there is another side to this question. When this Bill was approved in the Congress Legislature Party the statement of the British Prime Minister of February 20th, 1947, was not available. According to that statement the British are surrendering their Paramountacy with reference to the Indian States and as such they would not obstruct the abrogation of the Permanent Settlement now. In view thereof it should be possible to secure the assent of the King for the abolition of the Permanent Settlement and proceed with the legislation without further delay. This would save the delay involved in getting through the Estates Land Bill, as published, adopted and worked. Competent authorities think that it would take a minimum period of seven years to finish the survey and settlement that will have to precede the settlement of rent under that Bill now published. Therefore we have to consider and decide almost immediately whether to proceed with the Bill or to introduce another Bill seeking to abolish the zamindaris straightaway. There is also a suggestion that a short Bill may be introduced either by amending the Court of Wards Act or otherwise to provide for the taking over the management of all the estates in the Presidency, reduce rents to the level of the ryotwari areas, give facilities for the repairs of irrigation works and arrange for speedy survey and settlement and include whole inam villages in the purview of the Bill. It is too late in the day to appoint a Commission and go on enquiring into matters which have been under discussion for a long time. Therefore the Government before it comes to a decision in these matters, viz., (1) Form of Zamindari Legislation, (2) Rates of Ryotwari Land Tax, (3) Relation between tenant and owner and the programme of speedy legislation wish to consult representative bodies, persons interested, and experts. This consultation will not go beyond 15th April 1947. Meanwhile invitations will be issued to a limited number of persons for discussions, but the Government would be very glad to receive any representations written or oral in the matter before 15th April 1947. The Congress Legislature Party which will meet on 20th April 1947 will consider the matter. The Legislature will also be given the chance to discuss the same during the next sitting.

The Government wish to assure the public that in no case will the decisions on these matters be delayed beyond the most reasonable point.

Re-employment of Retired Officers

Answering an interpellation of Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rao about re-employment of retired officers, Dr. Rajan stated in the Council on March 29, that the services of all superannuated officials, either re-entertained after retirement for a definite period or given extensions of service, had not all been terminated. There were some still in service whose retention was considered necessary for special reasons. The reason for extension of service or re-employment was generally paucity of suitable or qualified candidates for appointment or promotion in the ordinary course. In the interests of economy, a list of persons so re-employed or granted extensions had not been printed. If any member wanted any information in that connexion, he could obtain it on application to the Chief Secretary.

Dr. Rajan further stated that generally, before such extensions were granted, efforts were made to secure officers with the same or similar qualifications either by promotion or recruitment.

Scholarships for Harijans

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Minister for Labour, informed Mr. S. Nagappa in the Assembly on March 26, that a sum of Rs. 1,25,100 had been set apart for the grant of scholarships to Harijan students in the budget for the year 1946–47. The scholarships would be distributed to students belonging to communities eligible for help from the Labour department and who profess the Hindu religion.

Creche for Work-women's Babies

On the suggestion of Lady Nye, the Corporation of Madras has made a start in the provision of creches in the City.

Efforts are being made to provide a creche in Banda Rama Naicken Garden Street, Georgetown. In this connexion, the Health Committee of the Corporation has sanctioned an estimate of Rs. 25,000 towards the cost of construction of the creche so that women labourers, when leaving for their work, could hand over their infants and babies to the creche.

Poondi Irrigation Research Station

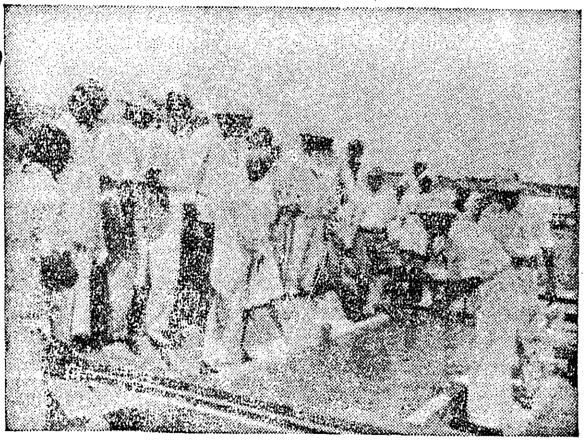
Premier's Visit

The Prime Minister and party.

The visit of the Hon'ble the Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Ministers for Revenue, Public Works and Finance, accompanied by Sri S. V. Ramamurty, Chief Secretary, and Mr. Ramunni Menon, Additional Chief Secretary to the Madras Government, to the Irrigation Research Laboratory at Poondi, which took place on April 4th, proved to be both enlightening and interesting. It enabled the Ministers to get an opportunity to appraise the immense potential value of the practical experiments that are being carried on at the station on the training of rivers and the various irrigation projects that are at present under construction or consideration as also of the research on irrigation problems in general and to appreciate the intimate and inalienable relationship there is between irrigation research and irrigation development, between theoretical experimentation on a small scale and practical application on a large one of the results of the research. At the same time it provided an opportunity to the officers of the Public Works Department, who are engaged in the work of research, with particular reference to large scale irrigation projects like Ramapadasagar and Tungabhadra to indicate and explain to the Ministers the progress achieved so far in regard to them and to elucidate other intricate points connected therewith.

The indubitable usefulness of irrigation research can be adequately realized in the context of an appreciation of the vital fact that the country's prosperity is inextricably bound up with the harnessing of our stupendous natural resources like rivers and waterfalls for the purpose of generating electric power, for extending the area under cultivation of food and other crops so that the Province can attain self-sufficiency in regard to food requirements and so on. It may sound superfluous to stress so plain and simple a fact as this, but it is necessary to stress it because of the rather slow pace of advance in this direction in the past and the need for the utmost expedition and speed in that respect in the future.

The models of the various projects and designs at the Irrigation Research Laboratory at Poondi that are on show point not only to the practical future possibilities of these projects but illustrate also the concentrated thought that is being bestowed on them and the systematic research that is being carried on by the officers concerned. They afford an idea of what has been accomplished, where we stand at present and how to proceed hereafter. One will be very much impressed in particular with the models of the Rs. 90 crore Ramapadasagar Project which when completed may prove to be one of the biggest in the world



Inspecting the works

and the Coffer Dam that is under construction in that connexion and the enormous amount of forethought, study, experimentation, and engineering skill that have gone and will have to go into its planning and execution before the scheme attains fruition. Similar is the impression left on one's mind on viewing the practical research that is being done *anent* the Rs. 12 crore Tungabhadra Project work on which has already started. Smaller model representations of the remodelling of a canal sluice at Bezwada, the Lower Bhavani, Vaigai and Melampuzha projects and one showing the Cooum tidal model also deserve mention.

The Hon'ble Ministers who visited the laboratory and who were shown round the whole place by Diwan Bahadur Govindaraja Ayyangar, Chief Engineer (Special), Rao Bahadur A. R. Venkatacharya and other Engineers, were obviously impressed with all that they saw, as their remarks in the visitors' book reveal. It will not be inappropriate to mention here that a number of world famous engineers like Mr. Savage, Dr. Terzhagi and others were also similarly impressed.

The visit to the Laboratory and its appendages was well worth the time spent on it.

Sir S. V. Ramamurthy explains to the Premier

How Research is Carried on

Thirty-five miles from Madras is situated the Poondi Reservoir constructed during 1940–44 for supplementing the storage for the Madras City water-supply. This reservoir with its regulator and other connected works is a fine piece of engineering construction. A few hundred feet down stream of the regulator is located the Irrigation Research Station of the Madras Public Works Department. This station was opened in 1945 and has been rapidly expanding. Here a band of Engineers are engaged in studying and finding out solutions with the aid of small-scale models for various problems relating to the design of irrigation works connected with big projects like the Ramapadasagaram, Tungabhadra, Vaigai, etc., and with the conservation and improvement of existing irrigation systems in the Presidency. One can see here small models operated, of the huge overflow dams of the Ramapadasagaram, Tungabhadra projects, of small tank weirs, sluices and canal drops, of large rivers like the Godavari and the Hagari, of canals like the Tungabhadra low-level canal and many other works of this kind.

Overflow Dams

Of the several studies undertaken at the station those on the designs of overflow dams are the most extensive. In most of the large projects contemplated under the Grow More Food schemes, dams of this type are proposed. These dams will be 100 to 150 feet high and floods will have to be passed over these dams with depths rising to 15 or 30 feet. The huge quantity of water falling through such great depths will create tremendous pressures on the various parts of the dam and cause deep scours in the river bed and margins down-stream. To evolve a design which will be efficient and economic, which will eliminate all undesirable pressures and provide for the disposal of floods in as harmless a manner as possible—that is the problem set to be solved by these model experiments.

Then there are the Ramapadasagar Coffer Dam models. The design of the coffer dam for this project is a problem of stupendous magnitude overshadowing anything that has been done hitherto. The foundations of the dam are to be taken down 150 to 200 feet below the river bed and work on these foundations is to go on uninterrupted for four or five years. All the time the river, which is the third biggest in India, has to be flowing. Construction of the dam foundation will be done in two halves to facilitate which one half of the river will be isolated by temporary coffer dams, leaving the other half free for the disposal of floods. The design of these coffer dams is of great importance and all care should be take

to make the designs safe, suitable and economic. Model experiments at Poondi are doing a good deal towards satisfactory solution of the attendant problems.

A model study whose benefit was proved soon in the prototype was the remodelling of one of the sluices in Kistna delta. A new sluice was considered necessary at one time at a cost of Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. Devices for improving the entry into existing sluice by structural modifications were then thought of and tested on models. The addition of a bulb-shaped wall in front of the sluice indicated considerable improvement. This modification was immediately effected on the sluice and it has proved satisfactory. The cost of the improvements was about Rs. 2,500.

Other interesting models under operation refer to scours round the piers of the proposed Hagari Aqueduct, stilling of whirlpools endangering navigation in the gorges of the Godavari and opening of the sand bar at the mouth of the Cooum. Studies are also in progress on designs of tank weirs, canal drops, sluices, syphons, fluming and silt selective heads, structures on permeable foundations, sand sluices, training works and so on.

The technique adopted in these investigations is interesting. Small models are made accurately to the scale of rivers, canals and irrigation structures. These are operated with water flowing over them reproducing the conditions in the prototypes to the extent possible. Careful observations are made, and accurate measurements recorded. The data so collected is analysed and by this means intricate and complicated problems are tackled and solved. Large rivers and canals in miniature shape are thus brought into the laboratory and are made to work under controlled and varying conditions. Models do not always behave exactly like the prototypes. But, with a knowledge of the behaviour of water under various conditions, of the forces and factors that come into play and of how these behave when reduced to scale, it is possible to adjust every single factor and predict their probable behaviour in prototypes. Every model is made with a set purpose and fulfils the purpose for which it is made. In this way hundreds of problems, in Hydraulic Engineering can be tackled with the aid of models.

The Research station is a building which is equipped with the apparatus required for these experiments, a pair of tanks for supplying the water required for the operation of the models, a pair of large iron-framed sheds to accommodate the Ramapadasagar Coffer Dam and other models, a workshop and a wide plot of land provided with pipes, flumes and other control works wherein the several outdoor models are set out. The water-supply required for working the models is drawn from the reservoir through a sluice recently constructed and the water so drawn is returned to the river below the regulator. The staff is accommodated in Government quarters near the station.

Hon'ble Sri A. B. Shetty, Minister for Public Health and Medicine

Five-year Plan for Geological Survey

A five-year plan for extending both the fundamental scientific work and the programme of mineral development of the Geological Survey of India, is outlined in an official memorandum published by the Government of India. The fulfilment of the plan—within five years—will mark a suitable culmination of a century of progress and achievement that the Survey (founded in 1851) will then have recorded.

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.